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Japan

Kono Reaches Accord With U.S. Quake Team

FEMA To Assess Damage

OW0102031995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0246 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—Japan and the United States agreed Wednesday [1 February] their two countries should develop cooperative relations to deal with earthquakes affecting densely populated regions, Japanese officials said.

The accord was reached by Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and James Lee Witt, director of Washington's Federal Emergency Management Agency, who is leading a seven-member team that will survey the damage of the Jan. 17 earthquake in western Japan.

In a meeting Wednesday, Witt told Kono that there were several similarities between the quake that leveled Kobe and last year's temblor in Los Angeles.

He said he hopes the knowledge gained from the California quake can be shared with the Japanese, adding that information gathered in the team's survey will also be shared with Japan.

Kono told Witt that Japan has received offers for aid and assistance from around the world after the quake. He expressed gratitude to the U.S. for President Bill Clinton's phone call and the relief efforts of U.S. military personnel stationed in Japan.

Witt is later scheduled to meet Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and the government's special minister in charge of quake relief efforts, Sadatoshi Ozato.

Witt and the U.S. team of experts will be in western Japan on Thursday and Friday to assess the damage caused by the 7.2 magnitude quake on homes, office buildings, expressways and rail links.

The quake, dubbed the great Hanshin earthquake, killed more than 5,000 people, the largest number of quake casualties in Japan since the 1923 great Kanto earthquake that hit Tokyo, Yokohama and vicinity claiming more than 140,000 lives.

FEMA Chief Comments

OW0102125395 Tokyo KYODO in English 1215 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—The head of the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) refused to comment Wednesday on Japan's earthquake measures, simply repeating the need for the two countries to develop cooperative relations for dealing with quakes.

"We have to share experiences...(concerning) quakes in densely populated regions," FEMA Director James Lee Witt told a press conference in Tokyo, brushing off questions by reporters about the Japanese Government's slow response to the deadly earthquake which struck Kobe and nearby areas of western Japan on Jan. 17.

Pressed to comment, however, Witt wrapped up the conference by saying, "we will follow up on that after we do our jobs."

The FEMA chief is in Tokyo with a seven-member team which will survey damage in Kobe and surrounding areas Thursday and Friday. The agency, established in 1979 under direct White House supervision, integrates rescue, relief and other civilian emergency operations in the United States.

Witt said his team of experts will assess the damage to homes, office buildings, expressways, rail links and other infrastructure, noting that the U.S. has similar structure in areas susceptible to earthquakes.

With criticism heightening over his government's slow response, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama has suggested setting up a crisis management body similar to FEMA.

In meetings earlier Wednesday with Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and Sadatoshi Ozato, special minister in charge of relief efforts, Witt said they agreed to "continue to work together to improve (our) ability to withstand future quakes."

Witt said that there were several similarities between the earthquake which leveled Kobe and last year's temblor in Northridge, Los Angeles.

He said he hopes the knowledge gained from the California quake can be shared with the Japanese, especially to "quicken the recovery," adding that information gathered in the team's survey this week will also be shared with Japan.

Briefing reporters, Japanese officials said Kono told Witt that Japan received offers of aid and assistance from around the world after the quake. He expressed gratitude to the U.S. for President Bill Clinton's support and the relief efforts of U.S. military personnel stationed in Japan, the officials said.

They said Ozato expressed the hope that Witt and his team will conduct a thorough investigation of the damage in the Kobe area and hold discussions with the relevant Japanese ministries and agencies, as Japan wants to learn from the example set by Witt's agency.

"We have to work hard to produce crisis management, information gathering and a quick response," Ozato said.

The great Hanshin earthquake on Jan. 17 killed more than 5,100 people, the largest number of quake casualties in Japan since the 1923 great Kanto earthquake which hit Tokyo, Yokohama and their vicinity, claiming more than 140,000 lives.

Witt Met Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi at the prime minister's official residence Wednesday evening for talks which focused on earthquakes and crisis management.

Murayama told Witt he looks forward to hearing his assessment of the quake-hit region and that he hopes the experience will lead to the building of a more solid urban infrastructure.

The prime minister also said he was grateful for U.S. President Bill Clinton's telephone call to express his sympathy over the quake, and for the help given by U.S. military personnel in the quake-hit area.

Executive Rebuts Steel Bar Dumping Allegation

OW0102002695 Tokyo KYODO in English 2305 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, Jan. 31 KYODO—The U.S. Government Tuesday [31 January] slapped punitive tariffs of up to 61 percent on Japanese-made stainless steel bars, accusing Japanese exporters of selling their products in the U.S. market at below "fair" market values.

The decision, by the U.S. International Trade Commission, the government agency that administers U.S. antidumping law, means Japanese stainless steel bar producers are likely to be shut out of the U.S. market.

Japan sold 14,500 tons of stainless steel bars in the United States in 1992, the year of reference used in the dumping suit. The bars are used primarily in machine parts and other steel products.

Japanese imports accounted for 30 percent of U.S. imports of stainless steel bars that year.

In handing down its final determination on the stainless steel dumping suit, the commission said the Japanese imports have caused "material damage" to the U.S. industry, a finding necessary before the imposition of punitive antidumping tariffs.

The commission also ruled against stainless steel bar imports from India, Brazil and Spain, slapping punitive tariffs of up to 62.85 percent on the three countries.

The U.S. Commerce Department, in a ruling issued Dec. 20, determined the Japanese dumping margin at 61.47 percent, which the U.S. Government will apply as an "antidumping" tariff against Japanese imports.

About 80 percent of the Japanese imports in 1992 came from Aichi Steel Works Ltd., Daido Steel Co. and Sanyo Special Steel Co.

Osamu Ono, the Daido executive in charge of overseas affairs, denied that the company has engaged in dumping, saying his firm has always pursued an "orderly export" strategy in the U.S.

Murayama Regrets Change in Enola Gay Display

OW3101121695 Tokyo KYODO in English 1058 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Jan. 31 KYODO—Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama expressed regret Tuesday [31 January] over the Smithsonian Institution's decision not to exhibit belongings of the victims of U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"The Japanese Government cannot intervene, but it is regrettable (in terms of) the Japanese people's feelings," the prime minister said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi, a top government spokesman, also told a press conference, "The government is not in a position to comment on the issue, but Japanese people hope people in the world will know the miserable facts about the atomic bombings."

The Smithsonian Institution in washington decided to sharply scale back its planned exhibition on the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki after its plans stirred up sharp controversy in the United States.

The new scaled-back version, hailed by the White House and U.S. war veterans, will show neither the casualties nor mass destruction inflicted on the two cities hit by atomic bombs near the end of World War II.

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono also said the government is not in a position to comment on the decision by the institution, but concerning opinions in the U.S. justifying the atomic attacks on Nagasaki and Hiroshima, Kono noted, "if such opinions exist, it is regrettable."

In Hiroshima where the municipal government was to propose its own revised plan to the Smithsonian Institution, Mayor Takashi Hiraoka said, "it is extremely regrettable" that the scaled-back version "is full of displays showing...only U.S. victory."

"This is not an era in which to be exhibiting the (B-29 bomber) Enola Gay that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima from the viewpoint of the victor nation," he said.

"Our disappointment becomes stronger when thinking of our wishes to increase U.S. public opinion in favor of creating a world without nuclear weapons," the mayor said.

Hiroshi Harada, director of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, said, "we had expected the decision, but it turned out to be the worst case."

Harada and other officials received a fax message from Martin Harwit [spelling of name as received], director of the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, expressing his regret for failing to push through the original plan.

Under strong pressure from congress and war veterans, Harwit was replaced as leader of the exhibition project by Smithsonian Secretary Michael Heyman.

Expressing disappointment, Sunao Tsuboi, secretary general for atomic bomb victims in Hiroshima, said, "America was America, as expected."

Nagasaki Mayor Hitoshi Motoshima said he had not expected such an outcome. "I feel very regretful because it would have been a great opportunity to have U.S. people listen to calls from Nagasaki."

Katsuichi Fukahori, a leader of a casualty group, said, "as a victim, I personally wanted people to acknowledge the terrible aftermath."

The group has been opposed to lending materials to the exhibition, which it claimed was trying to justify the atomic bombings.

Meanwhile, the Nagasaki Municipal Government has decided to hold an independent photo display in the U.S. and Canada, and the city is planning to ask Hiroshima to co-sponsor the plan, officials said.

Both Hiroshima Mayor Hiraoka and museum director Harada said they intend to hold independent events for U.S. citizens.

Motoshima said a U.S. citizens' group will hold photo exhibitions on the atomic bombing in August in New York, San Francisco and Nagasaki, and the municipal government will sponsor the local exhibition.

U.S. Request for DA Help Causing 'Anguish'

OW0102101495 Tokyo KYODO in English 0944 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—A U.S. request for Japanese Defense Agency [DA] support on Iwojima Island for events commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II is causing some anguish within the agency, agency officials said Wednesday [1 February].

The island, which lies about 1,200 kilometers south of Tokyo, was the scene of fierce fighting between Japanese and U.S. troops in the closing stages of World War II.

It currently serves as a base for the Marine Self-Defense Force which manage the island's runway and is also occasionally used by U.S. Navy planes based in Japan for night landing drills.

But the officials said they feel the request for logistical support for the events, on an island which symbolizes Japan's defeat in the war, may be too controversial to accept.

The battle for the island, which began on Feb. 19, 1945, when U.S. Forces landed there, resulted in the deaths of some 7,000 U.S. and 20,000 Japanese troops. The battle lasted almost a month.

The Defense Agency and the Foreign Ministry said the United States proposes staging two events on the island, one involving Marines on Feb. 23, and another involving veterans of the original battle and relatives of those who died in the fighting on March 14.

The U.S. can supply air and bus transport for the events, but has asked for SDF help in supplying food to participants at the March 14 event.

The officials said the two sides are still ironing out the details.

But they said the Japanese side is likely to agree to a U.S. request for participants to undergo immigration checks on the island after flying directly from nearby Saipan and Guam and to a request for the use of SDF facilities for an advance party coming to prepare for the event.

The events are part of a total of 86 commemorative events the U.S. is planning to mark the end of the war.

A senior agency official said that although the U.S. participated in an event in September last year commemorating the allied landing in Normandy, this was in France, a wartime U.S. ally.

"This time it's an event on Japanese territory and I would have liked them to take the Japanese side's feelings into consideration," the official said.

Legislation Sought To Expedite Return of Bases

OW0102093395 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 1 Feb 95 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Tokyo—On 31 January, a delegation from the Okinawan council for reversion of military bases and base-related problems (chairman: Governor Masahide Ota) called at the offices of Okinawa-based dietmen, the Defense Facilities Administration Agency [DFAA], and the Foreign Ministry to present petitions. The delegation, led by Kadena Mayor Tokujitsu Miyagi, is visiting Tokyo to petition for enactment of the so-called military base reversion special law within the ongoing Diet session and the central government's early actions to settle three pending issues, including return of the Naha Military Port. However, some dietmen and government officials indicated that while the Diet is in agreement with an early enactment of the base reversion law, discussions are unlikely to be resumed until the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] finalize the bill.

In addition to Mayor Miyagi, the delegation includes representatives from nine municipal offices in Okinawa. In addition to an early enactment of the base reversion law, they called for settlement of three pending issues—a complete reversion of the Naha Military Port, discontinuance of parachute exercises at the Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield and reversion of the airfield, and discontinuance

of live-firing exercises across Prefectural Highway 104—within this year to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The LDP and SDPJ failed to settle their negotiations on enactment of the base reversion law before the end of the previous extraordinary Diet session. In connection with this, dietmen showed varied reactions to petitions by the delegation on such issues as Article 8 of the bill demanding government compensation for landlords for three years after reversion. In reply to a petition by the delegation, Chairman Muneo Suzuki of the House of Representatives Special Committee on Okinawa and Northern Problems said "I would like to arrange the schedule to open debates on the bill as soon as possible."

Regarding settlement of the three pending issues, DFAA Chief Liaison and Coordination Officer Sadakatsu Kohama and some other officials noted their positive efforts to achieve the goals in line with the accords at the latest Japan-U.S. summit talks and with instructions from Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama. On these grounds, they stressed the need for the local community's understanding of and cooperation in relocation of some facilities, saying: "Some issues cannot be settled without the cooperation of the prefectural government and other administrative bodies."

The delegation members will meet additional Diet members on 1 February to file their petitions.

U.S. To End Radiation Lab Contract

OW3101090095 Tokyo KYODO in English 0702 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hiroshima, Jan. 31 KYODO—The U.S. Energy Department will not renew its contracts with researchers from the U.S. National Academy of Sciences currently working at a Japanese radiation laboratory in Hiroshima, a department official said Tuesday [31 January].

Energy department official Harry Pettengill [spelling of name as received] visited the Radiation Effects Research Foundation in Hiroshima to tell the foundation of its decision, which means that the 11 researchers sent there from the U.S. Academy will lose their positions.

The contract between the department and the academy will be terminated following a six-month transition period beginning in April, Pettengill said.

He also handed the 11 researchers a notice discharging them of their duties.

The foundation is jointly operated by the Japanese Health and Welfare Ministry and the U.S. Academy, which had been consigned by the department, with each side providing half of the budget for the organization. The money from the academy is supplied by the energy department.

The department is likely to strike a new contract with Columbia University to manage the research institute, foundation sources said.

However, it is not clear yet whether the 11 U.S. officials will all return home after their energy department contracts end because sizable portions of their salaries are covered by the Japanese institute.

The foundation may compensate the U.S. officials for their losses in pay due to the severing of energy department budgets, the sources said.

"Our trustworthiness has been sustained because it has been managed jointly by the academy, which is a neutral and independent organization," one official said.

"We cannot accept a stronger influence by the department, which was involved in developing atomic bombs, and also in view of the sentiment of the victims of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima," the official said.

Tokyo To Cooperate in Aid for Mexico

OW0102115795 Tokyo KYODO in English 1142 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—Japan will cooperate positively in helping Mexico recover from a currency crisis in line with a U.S. plan for additional aid, Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura said Wednesday [1 February].

Takemura said at a press conference, "strengthening assistance to Mexico is welcome and helpful to stabilize not only the Mexican currency but also financial and foreign exchange markets worldwide...Japan will also cooperate accordingly."

On Tuesday, U.S. President Bill Clinton unveiled a 47.5 billion dollar international aid package for Mexico, consisting of 20 billion dollars from the U.S. Government, 17.5 billion dollars in "standby" loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and a 10 billion dollar credit from the Bank for International Settlements.

Takemura expressed hope the Mexican economy will soon stabilize under the multilateral package.

Takemura said the Mexican issue will be a major topic on the agenda of a Friday-Saturday meeting in Toronto of financial officials from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations.

"We will exchange views on the matter, including the aid package," Takemura said.

Asked about the possibility of meeting U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin on the occasion of the Gakemura only said that due to his tight schedule he would not have any spare time except in the middle of the night.

Foreign Reserves Hit Record High in Jan

OW0102090495 Tokyo KYODO in English 0841 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—Japan's foreign exchange reserves increased 1.02 billion dollars in January to hit a record for the 11th straight month, the Finance Ministry said Wednesday [1 February].

Outstanding reserves as of the end of January came to 123.87 billion dollars, posting the 15th consecutive month-to-month increase since November 1993, the ministry said.

The foreign reserves include convertible foreign currencies, gold and International Monetary Fund special drawing rights.

The nation's foreign exchange reserves at the end of January was only about 1.3 billion dollars short of a global high of 125.2 billion dollars posted by Germany in September 1992.

A ministry official said the dollar was quoted at 100.88 yen in early trading on Jan. 4 and traded at 98.58 yen in late afternoon on Jan. 31 in Tokyo dealings. During the month, it fluctuated between a low of 98.42 yen posted on Jan. 31 and a high of 101.30 yen recorded on Jan. 9.

The fluctuation range of 2.88 yen was still moderate, though slightly up from a range of 1.92 yen in December, the official said.

As of the end of November, Japan remained the world's largest holder of foreign reserves for 15 months in a row, amassing 122.1 billion dollars.

Taiwan came in second with reserves of 93 billion dollars, followed by Germany with 90 billion dollars. The United States posted 76.3 billion dollars and Singapore 56.5 billion dollars.

UK Prepared To Act on 'Unfair' Liquor Tax

OW3101143095 Tokyo KYODO in English 1309 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Jan. 31 KYODO—Britain is prepared to take action against what it views as an unfair liquor tax system in Japan, British Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Michael Heseltine said Tuesday [31 January], according to Japanese Government officials.

Britain will take some measures if progress is not made in the current situation in the future, Heseltine was quoted as saying in a meeting with his Japanese counterpart Ryutaro Hashimoto.

Heseltine, however, did not go into details. Before leaving Britain for a five-day visit to Japan on Saturday, he told reporters that London is ready to bring the liquor tax issue to a dispute settlement panel under the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Britain has complained that Japan's tax on scotch whisky is six times higher than that on shochu spirit, putting British distillers at disadvantage.

During the 60-minute meeting with Hashimoto, Heseltine said there had been no improvement in the situation for the past seven years, the officials said.

Leaving the situation unattended to for such a long time is shameful for Japan, Heseltine was quoted as saying.

Hashimoto was quoted as saying he will convey the complaint to Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura.

During the Heseltine-Takemura meeting on Monday, the Japanese finance minister did not make any specific commitment on the liquor tax issue.

On trade "framework" negotiations with the United States, Hashimoto pledged that Tokyo will proceed with such talks in a way that will not negatively affect Britain, the officials said.

Hashimoto was apparently trying to erase British concerns that Washington's result-oriented trade approach would bring benefits to the U.S. while Britain's cooperative approach as seen in the "action Japan" trade campaign program would not be rewarding.

Hashimoto was quoted as saying Tokyo has rejected and will reject any irrational U.S. requests in the framework talks.

Agreements to be struck from the bilateral talks would also be accorded to Britain and other third parties on a most-favored-nation (MFN) basis, Hashimoto said, according to the officials.

Heseltine said Britain will step up efforts to expand exports to Japan under the Action Japan Program, as past efforts, such as the dispatching of economic missions, had brought fruitful results.

Hashimoto was quoted as saying Japan will support these efforts.

Murayama Rejects SDF Guard Duty in PKO

OW0102123395 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 30 Jan 95 Evening Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Regarding the issue of reviewing the UN Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) Cooperation Law, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama indicated his view about the question of Self-Defense Forces [SDF] detachments assuming guard duty. He said, "I think assigning guard duty to the SDF is not permitted under the present Constitution." He was replying to a question from Nobuaki Futami (from Shinshinto [New Frontier Party]) at a House of Representatives Budget Committee session on the morning of 30 January.

So far, the government has taken the view that "to perform guard duty for purposes of self-defense and emergency evacuation is not considered illegal," as long as it is conducted based on individual judgment. It seems that when he answered Futami's question, Murayama had in mind the gurad duty which wuld be assigned to SDF units. However, this is the first time he showed the position that this duty itself is unconstitutional.

At the same time, concerning the question of strengthening Japan-U.S. security cooperation, Murayama showed a positive stand for studying the U.S. proposal to conclude the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA), saying: "It should be studied to conclude a clear-cut agreement."

SDPJ Seeks Suspension of Golan Heights Mission

OW0102110295 Tokyo KYODO in English 1026 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—The ruling Social Democratic Party (SDP) [of Japan, SDPJ] decided Wednesday [1 February] to propose suspension of the plan to send a government mission to study the possibility of a Self-Defense Forces (SDF) mission to help United Nations peacekeeping operations on the Golan Heights, party officials said.

At a joint meeting of three SDP committees concerned, members agreed that the SDF should for the time being concentrate on rescue and relief missions in areas of western Japan devastated by the big earthquake two weeks ago.

The ruling coalition of the SDP, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and new party Sakigake [Harbinger] have been working on the plan to send a fact-finding mission to see if the SDF could make any contribution to supporting the activities of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights.

The SDP decision will be a blow to the Foreign Ministry, which has been pressing for SDF participation in UN peacekeeping operations in the Middle East.

The UN has also decided against seeking Japan's participation in the UNDOF operations due to the delay in Japanese preparations.

The SDP, however, did not kill the LDP-proposed plan entirely and decided to discuss the issue after the initial intensity of the relief activities for the quake victims eases, the officials said.

The UNDOF was established in 1974, following a disengagement agreement between Syrian and Israeli forces, to take over territory evacuated by the Israeli troops and hand it over to Syrian troops and to establish an area of separation on the Golan Heights.

The UNDOF continues to monitor the area of separation, carrying out inspections and arranging the transfer of prisoners and war dead between Syria and Israel.

Murayama Acknowledges Role in Dividing Korea

OW3001141995 Tokyo KYODO in English 1400 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Jan. 30 KYODO—Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said Monday [30 January] Japan is partly responsible for the division of the Korean peninsula after World War II.

In response to a question from Shigeaki Tsukihara of the opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) in the House of Representatives Budget Committee, Murayama acknowledged Japan's role in the history of the Korean peninsula.

The premier later elaborated on the issue, telling reporters that the peninsula was under Japanese occupation during the last world war.

Murayama Retracts Remark

OW3101131095 Tokyo KYODO in English 1019 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Jan. 31 KYODO—Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on Tuesday [31 January] retracted a remark he made on Monday that Japan is partly responsible for the division of the Korean peninsula following World War II.

"I spoke of Japan's responsibility for the Japanese colonial rule of Korea in the past. I want to make it clear that Japan has no responsibility for the division of Korea into North and South Korea," Murayama told the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

Murayama made the comment in line with an official view taken by the Japanese Government that the division was the result of the international environment characterized by the Cold War at that time.

Because of this view, Tokyo has rejected a demand from North Korea for compensation for the division of the Korean peninsula, which was under Japanese colonial rule between 1910 and 1945.

Professor Reviews Visit to DPRK

OW0102042195 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 31 Jan 95 Morning Edition p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Yan C. Kim, a professor at the East Asia Research Institute of George Washington University in the United States, who visited North Korea for about one week from 16 January, sent a report on the situation in North Korea to YOMIURI SHIMBUN. During his stay in Pyongyang, Professor Kim met with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea (in charge of North Korea's policy toward South Korea) Kim Yong-son, and other key North Korean officials. During the meeting, North Korean leaders proposed for the first time an "intermediary step" as a means to resolve the issue of replacing the truce agreement with a peace treaty.

In the report, the professor says: I believe U.S.-North Korean relations will undergo twists and turns in the future, but they will continue to make moderate headway in response to the implementation of the "U.S.-North Korea agreement" that was signed by the two countries on 21 October 1994. North Korea has taken a cooperative attitude toward resolving the issue of its suspected nuclear development since the agreement was signed between the two countries. In response, the United States has decided to partially lift economic sanctions against North Korea.

Kim goes on to say: What surprised me during my stay in Pyongyang was that North Korea showed flexibility toward the issue of concluding a peace treaty with the United States. The North Korean leaders asserted: "If it is impossible for the United States to conclude a peace treaty at the present stage, North Korea is willing to consider an intermediary step." They also added that content of the intermediary step will come to light in the process of U.S.-North Korean negotiations.

In the report, the professor comments: Trilateral relations among the United States, North Korea, and South Korea will undergo a complicated process in connection with the implementation of the U.S.-North Korea agreement and the management of the Korea Energy Development Organization (KEDO). Rumors abound that in April, both the United States and North Korea will open respective liaison offices in Washington and Pyongyang, but that is doubtful. A military helicopter assigned to U.S. Forces in South Korea was recently shot down near the demilitarized zone. This incident and the absence of North-South dialogue will keep the Clinton administration from moving further.

Kim notes: Commenting on the North-South dialogue that remains suspended, North Korean leaders stressed the "need to create a climate for resuming North-South dialogue." As conditions for resuming the suspended dialogue, they cited: 1) South Korea's apology for the "breach of etiquette" the government made when President Kim Il-song died; 2) South Korea's repeal of the National Security Law; and 3) South Korea's return of long-term, unconverted communist prisoners to North Korea.

In the report, the professor analyzes that these demands were made because the North Koreans do not have a correct understanding of the situation in South Korea and the dynamic reality of U.S.-South Korea relations. However, the professor suggests the demands may contain some constructive factors.

Kim says: North Korea is aware of the reality that improvement in North-South relations is linked to U.S.-North Korea relations. North Korea will decide to resume the North-South dialogue at whatever level in the near future.

In the report Kim analyzes: For the Clinton administration, which concluded the agreement with North Korea, South Korean President Kim Yong-sam's cooperation is indispensable in implementing the U.S.-North Korea agreement. This means an increase in South Korea's influence on the United States. A close cooperative relationship between President Kim Yong-sam and President Clinton will become an important factor in forecasting future U.S.-North Korea relations and North-South relations. The South Korean Government should consider that if it takes an uncooperative stance with the way the United States handles KEDO and the issue of providing assistance to North Korea's construction of light-water reactors, what impact that stance will have on U.S.- North Korea relations.

The professor notes: North Korea's position is "it will comply unconditionally with any call from Japan for the resumption of the stalled Japan-North Korea normalization talks." North Korean leaders explicitly said: "If the Japanese Foreign Ministry formally notifies North Korea of its intention to resume the stalled normalization talks through diplomatic channels, we are ready to go along with it."

In the report, the professor says: A high-ranking North Korean official stated: "Although Japan has claimed it hopes for unconditional resumption of the suspended Japan-North Korea normalization talks, it has set conditions. The two countries should sit at the table to discuss any bilateral issues. I wonder if the Japanese Government has been unable to make a political decision on the resumption of talks because of the absence of a consensus, and the unstable political situation in Japan and unclear prospects for it."

In the report, the professor analyzes: The Japanese Foreign Ministry probably has a plan on the timing of the resumption of stalled talks. Under the domestic situation that presently remains in a fluid and complex state, one of the options for the ruling coalition government is to take a cautious attitude toward resuming talks with North Korea. If the Japanese Government formally notifies North Korea of its intentions to resume the stalled talks through diplomatic channels, this would probably pave the way for their resumption. Moving toward resuming the stalled Japan-North Korea normalization talks is one thing and normalizing relations with North Korea is another....[ellipses as received]

In the report, Kim says: Commenting on the transfer of power to Secretary Kim Chong-il, which has fueled a variety of rumors, high-ranking North Korean officials said: "Supreme Commander Kim Chong-il is at the helm of the party, government, military, and foreign policy. He has the final word on important matters. All North Korean people and the military are backing him with their endless respect and loyalty." They also stressed: "All the people and military are rallying behind him and struggling to carry out revolutionary business in compliance with the teachings left by President Kim Il-song."

As to the question of when Secretary Kim Chong-il will formally assume the posts of president and party general secretary, they limited themselves to saying: "It will become known later."

In the report, the professor describes the North Koreans' attitude toward late President Kim Il-song as follows: Perhaps, people on a visit to North Korea will feel that it is still ruled by President Kim Il-song. Although no assessment or scientific survey has been conducted on the country, the North Koreans invariably express their respect for late President Kim Il-song and laud his feats. Their respect and lauding of the elder Kim far exceed their respect and lauding of the younger Kim. It seemed to me that their respect for the late President Kim Il-song and his charisma still reign in North Korean society.

Polls Gauge Support for Murayama Cabinet

YOMIURI Poll

OW0102015195 Tokyo KYODO in English 0049 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—The public disapproval rating of the cabinet of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in January topped the approval rating for the first time in six months, in the wake of the great Hanshin earthquake which killed more 5,000 people, according to a national daily poll published Wednesday [1 February].

The YOMIURI SHIMBUN said the disapproval rating increased by 5.3 percentage points over the previous survey, in December, to 44.7 percent, while the approval rating decreased by 4 percentage points to 40.8 percent.

The support rate for the Murayama cabinet has previously always been larger than the disapproval rating, except in the first survey, conducted in July last year, the national daily said. The three- party coalition government, headed by the chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), was formed last June 30.

The YOMIURI attributed the sharp decrease in the cabinet's popularity to Murayama's poor handling of the disaster arising from the Jan. 17 quake.

The daily conducted the nationwide survey of 3,000 eligible voters Saturday and Sunday. The response rate was 65 percent.

Concerning support for political parties, 50 percent of respondents said they do not support any political party, the YOMIURI said. This rate was a 3 percentage point increase over the previous survey.

The support rate for the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) increased slightly over December's rating, by 1.3 percentage points, to 24.2 percent, while the support rate of the SDP decreased by 1.9 percentage points to 7.7 percent.

The support rate for the grand opposition Shinshinto [New Frontier Party] decreased by 3.8 percentage points to 9.8 percent over the same period, the YOMIURI added.

NIHON KEIZAI Poll

OW3101150695 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 31 Jan 95 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN recently conducted a public opinion survey on the government's response to the Hanshin earthquake. The emergency survey, which was taken from 27 to 29 January by telephone, found that 87.6 percent of the people questioned wanted the government to enhance its crisis management ability based on its experience in the Kobe quake. In the recent poll, the Murayama cabinet won the support of 36.8 percent of those polled, 5.3 percentage points down from the last poll (in November of 1994), while obtaining a 38-percent disapproval rating. This is the first time since the July survey that the disapproval rating for the cabinet has exceeded the support rate. As many as 44 percent expressed dissatisfaction with the prime minister's response to the earthquake. However, they were outnumbered by those who accused the central and local governments of poor response—52.4 percent. In particular, criticism was directed at central government offices. The results indicate that many people expect the government to review the current disaster prevention system and structure.

The poll picked 2,916 people from all over Japan, other than the quake-hit areas, and had a response rate of 61.6 percent.

Concerning the response by the central and local governments to the earthquake, 5.5 percent said, "They are responding well," and 41.3 percent noted, "Their response is insufficient, but it cannot be helped." Meanwhile, 38 percent said they were "dissatisfied" with their slow response, and 14.4 percent commented, "I cannot give high marks to their response."

Asked to specify organizations whose response were considered insufficient, 42.9 percent named central government offices, 22.1 percent picked the Self-Defense Forces [SDF], and 18.4 percent chose local governments. Concerning the prime minister's response, 6.3 percent said, "He is doing all right," 48.3 percent said, "His response is insufficient, but it cannot be helped," and more than 50 percent were sympathetic to the prime minister.

Those who support the Murayama cabinet were asked why they approve of it. As many as 54.1 percent said, "Because the prime minister is a reliable person," and 37.8 percent noted, "Because it is the coalition government comprising the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], and Sakigake [Harbinger]." This indicates that there are still many people who support the cabinet because of Murayama's personality.

Those who disapprove of the cabinet were also asked to give reasons for their disapproval. Fifty-two percent said, "Because Muryama lacks the power of execution," and 33.7 percent claimed, "Because he is incapable of coordinating things." The number of people who think the prime minister lacks the power of execution has increased 16.6 percentage points from the last poll. This suggests that the number of people who question Murayama's executive power and coordinating ability has rapidly increased following the earthquake.

Meanwhile, more than 75 percent urged a review of the current crisis management system: 82 percent agreed that the government should establish a new ministry or an agency for disaster prevention; 53.4 percent said although the government makes it a rule to dispatch SDF troops upon requests from local governments, "the dispatch should be made if SDF units near the disaster scene think it necessary"; and 25.2 percent said, "The dispatch should be decided by the prime minister or the Defense Agency director general."

In answering which organizations they think should play an important role in great disasters, 42.3 percent named local governments, 40.4 percent named the central government, 32.2 percent picked the SDF, and 27.8 percent said the general public should do so. Asked whether it is necessary to impose a burden on the people for strengthening the central and local governments' crisis management systems, 3.9 percent said, "The systems should be strengthened even if it requires imposing a considerable burden on the people," 46.4 percent noted, "Imposing a certain level of burden on the people will be inevitable," and 41.8 percent said, "They will be able to improve their systems without imposing a burden on the people if they cut unnecessary expenditures."

Quake Affects New Frontier Party Strategy

To Review Stance

OW3101133495 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 30 Jan 95 Morning Edition p 2

[By Political Department reporter Masao Yora]

[FBIS Translated Text] The New Frontier Party [NFP] has been forced to review its political strategies due to the great Hanshin earthquake. Some party members hold the view that "The Murayama cabinet will not be able to last, because he may be urged to take responsibility for the delays in handling the earthquake." Logically speaking, the NFP should take the offensive and urge the prime minister to take the blame. Actually, however, the NFP wishes to prevent giving people the impression that it is interfering with the government's enforcement of disaster-related measures. In addition, a prevailing view among party members is that "If he resigns, it is likely that the political situation will change in a way that we never expected (according to a senior party official)."

In a bid to seek Murayama's resignation, several NFP members from the House of Councillors, such as Chinpei Nozue, collected signatures. However, it has been reported that on 27 January, NFP head Toshiki Kaifu gave them a warning, saying: "It would be better to make gradual attacks, just like delivering body blows." He has been concerned over the possibility that "If the NFP does nothing but demand that the prime minister take the blame, we will be criticized by the public."

Nozue said that "when he had met with the prime minister, Murayama said: 'please do not hesitate in collecting signatures.'" After this story was disclosed, the view that "Murayama seems to want to give up on his administration (according to the another senior NFP official)," has also been prevailing.

Due to the great Hanshin earthquake, it is unlikely that unified local elections and House of Representatives elections will be conducted "simultaneously." This is favorable to the NFP, which has lagged in making various preparations, such as coordination of candidates. However, if the Murayama cabinet is likely to resign en mass, the NFP will have to face its weakness. Thus, "It will eventually have to remain passive and watch the Liberal Democratic Party's actions because the number of their Diet seats is not enough to approve a no-confidence motion in the cabinet."

So far, the NFP has mapped out its strategies on the premise that the present cabinet will last at least until the next unified local elections and House of Councillors elections. A senior official said: "We have never considered reshuffling the administration. If such a situation arises, the NFP will also be in chaos, and will collapse." His remarks illuminate one of the reasons for the party's failure in upholding its demand for the "Murayama cabinet's resignation en mass." Working out strategies is not easy.

To Cooperate on Budget

OW0102131895 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN in Japanese 31 Jan 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The New Frontier Party [NFP] held a meeting of its four top-ranking officials on 30 January, and decided to give its all-out cooperation to early approval of the FY 1995 budget bills so that the highest priority will be given to enforcing restoration steps for areas damaged by great Hanshin earthquake. At the same time, it decided to positively deal with the second FY 94 supplementary budget bills and other budget-related bills. Participants also confirmed their demand that the government submit those bills to the Diet as early as possible. With those decisions, it is almost certain that the FY 95 budget bills will be passed by the House of Representatives by the end of February, and enacted by the end of this fiscal year.

At a news conference held the same day, NFP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa said: "The budget bills themselves are not well prepared in terms of earthquake-related measures. We have many things to demand. Although we think the bills need to be revised, we will not postpone the budget approval through useless deliberations." Thus, he showed his intention to give up the demand to revise the budget bills to include restoring the disaster-hit areas, and to accept the plan to implement the supplementary budget after the FY 95 budget is approved.

However, Ozawa stressed his intention to continuously deal with the issue of the government's responsibility and crisis management, saying: "The Murayama cabinet's responsibility and problems in the crisis management system are different matters."

SDPJ To Cooperate With NFP in Election

OW2901140295 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 29 Jan 95 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] As of 28 January, the Social Democratic Party of Japan's [SDPJ] Hokkaido chapter (with Seiichi Ikehata as chairman) has firmed up its plan to cooperate in the next lower house election with the New Frontier Party's [NFP] Hokkaido chapter, which is to be inaugurated on 29 January.

Because the SDPJ would have to compete against the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] in single-seat constituencies in Hokkaido, the party's local chapter has judged that cooperating with the NFP will be indispensable in its bid to maintain its current strength in the lower house in an election under a new electoral system, and to rally democratic and liberal forces in Hokkaido.

In national elections, the SDPJ has cooperated with the LDP and Sakigake [Harbinger], the two other parties composing the tripartite ruling coalition which supports the administration of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama. It is expected that the intended actions of the SDPJ's Hokkaido chapter will have some subtle effects on the relationship between the ruling coalition parties.

Currently, the SDPJ's Hokkaido chapter has nine candidates (including six incumbents), excluding Hokkaido Governor Takahiro Yokomichi, ready to compete for the 13 single-seat constituencies in Hokkaido. Because seven of these candidates are expected to have to compete against LDP-affiliated candidates, it is thought that a tough election campaign lies ahead.

* Former DSP Chairman Refuses To Join NFP

952B0076A Tokyo SHUKAN GENDAI in Japanese 17 Dec 94 pp 29-30

[Unattributed article: "Actual Intentions of 'Adieu to the New Frontier Party' of Former Democratic Socialist Party Chairman Keigo Ouchi"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The New Frontier Party [NFP] is destined to be synonymous with Gakkai (Soka Gakkai) [a major Buddhist group serving as Komeito support base]. The new party carries the destiny on its shoulder. And, although its participants say it is a new party, they have no consensus in basic policies and political ideals and lack the desire to create a new party with unity. I will not join the NFP."

With the formation of the NFP close at hand, Mr. Keigo Ouchi, former chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP], made the above mentioned remark on 1 December [1994], expressing his intention not to join the NFP.

During the era of the former coalition government, Ouchi made a colossal blunder by moving to form a parliamentary group over the head of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], thereby inviting the SDPJ's secession from the government. But Mr. Ouchi is still a former DSP chairman. Things are serious because a man of his caliber has raised the standard of revolt.

As for reasons behind his refusal to join the new party, a cabinet member testifies as follows: "In late November, Ozawa (secretary general of Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party]) is said to have called in Ouchi and told him arbitrarily that 'Mr. Ouchi, since you have the experience of serving as party leader, I would like to switch you over to the proportional representation district.' Embarrassed greatly, Ouchi called up former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, his senior at Waseda University, and implored him for help, saying that he would not join the NFP. Takeshita, consulted by Ouchi, instructed the Election Committee of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] to adjust the list of candidates so as to include Ouchi and began working for Ouchi's accession to the LDP."

After the telephone conversation with Mr. Takeshita, Mr. Ouchi also called one of the leading members of Yuai Kaigi [friendship council], his main support organization, and reportedly notified the member that he will not join the NFP and go anti-Ozawa.

The leading member of Yuai Kaigi says, "It is true that I was consulted toward the end of November. I cannot furnish the details, but he sounded as if he didn't care if anyone did as he liked."

Why has a man like Mr. Ouchi, who has served as chairman of a party, decided to turn his back on the NFP at the last moment?

A source (assistant political editor of a national newspaper) says: "Even if he remains in his party, there is no possibility of his running in a single-seat electoral district. The New Tokyo No. 4 district where he plans to run is a closely contested electoral district in which his rivals like Mr. Shokei Arai of the LDP and Mr. Hitoshi Matsubara of Shinseito are jostling with one another. Now that Mr. Ozawa's final notice has been given, there is absolutely no possibility of his getting the party endorsement for his candidacy. Worse still, Rissho Koseikai, the largest support base for Mr. Ouchi, has shown reluctance to his participation in the NFP which has a strong tinge of Soka Gakkai. The recent attitude of Mr. Ouchi is not unrelated to his difficult constituency situation."

His breakaway, apparently, is for his self-protection which has nothing to do with political faith and ideals. Since the NFP is a medley of people gathered merely to combine the numbers, such breakaway disturbances are likely to ensue for some time in the future.

LDP Members Form Council Against War Apology

OW3101143595 Tokyo KYODO in English 1318 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Jan. 31 KYODO—A total of 143 legislators of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) formed a council Tuesday [31 January] to oppose a proposed Diet resolution to apologize to Asian countries for Japan's action during World War II, sources from the group said.

The lawmakers constitute nearly half the 294 LDP members in both houses of the Diet, which have a total of 763 seats.

The council held a general assembly on Tuesday and adopted an action program not to allow the Diet to resolve on such an apology or on a determination that Japan will not wage a war again, the sources said.

According to the action program, such an apology would boost demands from Asian countries for war compensation.

Such a resolution, which the action program calls a ratification of a "distorted" view of history, would limit people's judgments on history.

The LDP and its two coalition partners—the Social Democratic Party (SDP) [Social Democratic Party of Japan—SDPJ] and new party Sakigake [Harbinger]—agreed to promote a Diet resolution on the war when they formed the tripartite coalition government last June.

SDP Secretary General Wataru Kubo recently asked the Diet to adopt a resolution to express remorse for Japan's past deeds.

Toshiki Kaifu, head of the opposition party Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), also urged the Diet earlier this month to adopt a resolution on a determination not to wage war again.

Tokyo To Allay Fears on Nuclear Waste Shipment

OW3001114695 Tokyo KYODO in English 1115 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Jan. 30 KYODO—The government seeks understanding and cooperation with the upcoming transport to Japan by sea of high-level nuclear waste from France, a top Foreign Ministry official said Monday [30 January].

Vice Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito told a news conference that the Japanese Government hopes "to work to relieve concern" about the controversial transport, which is scheduled for late February.

The ship will carry high-level nuclear waste generated from the reprocessing in France of nuclear fuel spent at Japanese nuclear power plants.

In early January, three Japanese women—a journalist, an atomic bomb survivor and an antinuclear activist from Hiroshima—went to Panama to demonstrate against the ship's possible passage through the Panama canal.

The central American nation of the Dominican Republic, and the islands of Puerto Rico and Barbados have also protested against the transport.

The Japanese Government has not made the transport route public.

Discord Between Takemura, Hashimoto Examined

OW0102094795 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 31 Jan 95 Morning Edition p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] There is growing discord between Masayoshi Takemura, finance minister, and Ryutaro Hashimoto, minister of international trade and industry, over reform of special public corporations and restoration measures after the great Hanshin earthquake. In addition to differences in political careers and style, it seems that they feel rivalry because they are believed to be possible "post-Murayama" candidates. Some people have begun to say that the discord between the influential ministers may become an obstacle to the promotion of government policies.

At an emergency task force meeting held on the evening of 26 January, the finance minister expressed his displeasure by saying: "This is news to me." He said this because it was a great surprise to him that the minister of international trade and industry had made a proposal on the formation of a project team designed to study the possibility of enacting special laws [for earthquake rehabilitation]. A decision was made to form the special team, but the only thing discussed at the meeting about contents of the special laws was that the team will study them "from scratch."

Actually, Hashimoto consulted with Sadatoshi Nozato, minister in charge of earthquake measures; Shizuka Kamei, transportation minister; Koken Nosaka, construction minister; and other ministers on 25 January. No wonder the finance minister, feeling completely "left out," became angry. Moreover, before making the proposal Hashimoto whispered to several senior MOFA officials: "I am disclosing this only to you."

When he met the finance minister at a cabinet meeting on 27 January, Hashimoto said: "I could not sleep a wink last night." It seemed as if Hashimoto was trying to say that although he told administrative officials [of the Finance Ministry] about the proposal, the message was not conveyed to the finance minister. Thus, he wondered what was wrong with the Finance Ministry's chain of command. The finance minister became very displeased with this, showing his temper.

There has been a prelude to the discord between the two. The "collision" occured on the evening of 24 January at the prime minister's official residence. The finance minister—in the presence of the prime minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kono, and Chief Cabinet Secretary Igarashi—began to explain his pet-scheme of privatizing the Japan Development Bank [JDB] as part of reforming special public corporations. Immediately, Hashimoto criticized Takemura. He said: "What do you mean you would make financial investments in the JDB after privatizing it?" In response, Takemura pressed Hashimoto, who said that "the Ministry of International Trade and Industry would realize two integrations," for reform. Hashimoto said: "I want you to tackle the issue of financial institutions, which is related to measures designed to deal with small-to-medium-sized enterprises." In this way, they had a head-on collision. It appears that the discord between the two will add fuel to the confusion within the Murayama administration.

Murayama Rejects Call for MOF-EPA Merger

OW0102060295 Tokyo KYODO in English 0528 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on Wednesday [1 February] turned down an opposition proposal that the Ministry of Finance [MOF] and the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) be merged as part of an administrative reform program.

"If merged, the EPA could not fully practice its role in overseeing overall economic management, including coordination with the private sector," Murayama told a House of Representatives Budget Committee session.

Replying to a question from a member of the largest opposition party Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), Murayama stressed the importance of the EPA's role as a policy coordinator for various economic issues such as inflation control.

"Government departments must perform in a simple but efficient manner in accordance with prevailing situations," he said.

"We'll constantly check their performance, but we don't see any immediate need to discuss their integration under a particular timetable."

MOF To Allow New Type of Convertible Bonds

OW3101143995 Tokyo KYODO in English 1339 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Jan. 31 KYODO—The Ministry of Finance plans to allow businesses to issue a new type of convertible bond that can be converted into shares of other companies in which the issuing firms have stockholdings, ministry officials said Tuesday [31 January].

The move constitutes a part of deregulation of Japan's financial market, they said.

The ministry officials said the plan is designed to encourage the dismantling of the "keiretsu" corporate interlocking which has come under strong criticism overseas as a barrier to market access in Japan.

They said the liberalization will also be a response to a U.S. request put forth in Japan-U.S. "Framework" trade negotiations on the financial services sector.

Washington made a strong request to Japan to remove restrictions on such bond issues which are popular in the United States as a way of repaying the principal of corporate bonds to investors in the form of shares.

The officials said liberalization of the bond issue is possible under the existing securities and exchange law, and would help diversify corporate fund-raising methods.

Under the practice, a corporation which holds a massive amount of shares of another company is allowed to float corporate bonds on condition that the bonds are converted into shares of the company concerned. The buyer of the bonds asks the bond-issuing company to convert the bonds into shares of the company concerned after a certain period.

Quake Aid Offered by 65 Nations

OW3001132295 Tokyo KYODO in English 1245 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Jan. 30 KYODO—Some 65 countries have offered aid and humanitarian assistance to help victims of Jan. 17's great Hanshin earthquake in western Japan and the Japanese Government has so far accepted 23 of the offers, the Foreign Ministry said Monday [30 January].

Among the main contributing nations were the United States, Switzerland and France, which dispatched rescue and expert groups, as well as a number of nations, including Russia, South Korea and China, which sent relief goods, the ministry said in a report compiled Monday.

Meanwhile, a shipment of 17,000 pieces of underwear from Egypt arrived Monday at Kansai international airport in Osaka, just east of quake-stricken Kobe and Hyogo Prefecture.

The ministry also said it will concentrate on accepting offers of materials needed for the area's reconstruction.

Quake Damage, Public Support Examined

OW3001132395 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0003 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General TV Network in Japanese at 0003 GMT on 29 January, during its "Sunday Discussion" program, carries an 89-minute roundtable discussion with Kozo Igarashi, chief cabinet secretary; Sadatoshi Ozato, minister in charge of disaster relief operations; Shoichi Ide, health and welfare minister; Hyogo Governor Toshitami Kaihara; Komazawa University Professor Yasumasa Yamamoto; and earthquake evacuees who join the discussion from several evacuation sites via hookup. NHK commentator Takashi Yamamoto and (Hidemi) Yoshimura moderate the discussion.

At 0003 GMT, Yamamoto opens the program by asking evacuees about what kind of things they need the most at present. They call for early construction of temporary housing, and early restoration of electricity, gas, and water supplies. Ozato says: "I believe that at least, about 60,000 houses must be provided to evacuees. We have already concluded the contracts for about 19,000 temporary houses, and 25,000 public housing units. Concerning ways to secure the other 15,000 houses, I intend to request domestic and overseas cooperation, including that from the United States." Kaihara explains the progress of the housing construction projects, saying: "By the end of February, about 3,000 temporary houses will be ready to move into. However, the maximum production of prefabricated houses is 10,000 units per month. Therefore, I am afraid that it will take a while before we can completely meet the people's demands."

Moderator Yamamoto asks Igarashi for his view on the opinion that the government should be more positive in providing public and government officials' housing to evacuees. Igarashi says: "All ministries and agencies are ready to offer the facilities and housing under their jurisdiction. It is also important to conduct surveys of evacuees on their demands for housing so as to implement appropriate measures."

At 0019 GMT, an evacuee points out that some rents sharply increased after the earthquake. Igarashi says: "That is what we are wary of the most. The Economic Planning Agency has been doing its utmost to prevent such a situation. I will also order the local organizations concerned to give strict guidance on this matter." After pointing out the absolute shortage of the housing supply in Kobe City, Kaihara suggests a plan to transfer some evacuees to other evacuation sites in Kobe suburbs to improve the living environment.

Concerning public financial aid to restoration activities, Ozato says: "The government has decided to provide more financial aid to disaster-ridden people than it did in the past. For example, the central and local governments will bear 80 percent of the expenses for removing collapsed houses and private companies' buildings. The government may also provide over 100 billion yen for the treatment of wastes, which are estimated to amount to over 1,200 tons."

Professor Yamamoto asks Igarashi for his view on the sharp hike in dismantling charges. Igarashi vows efforts to strictly monitor hikes in various prices. He then adds: "What I want to ask Kobe citizens is to refrain from using personal vehicles as much as possible for the sake of smooth transportation of wastes and construction materials by trucks."

At 0030 GMT, an evacuee demands that the government provide low- interest loans to those who want to rebuild their houses, and resume businesses. Igarashi says the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency will provide loans to applicable companies at 4.45 percent interest, and that it will provide loans at 3 percent for those companies that were inflicted with extremely serious damage.

Concerning the precise schedule for the restoration of electricity, gas, and water, Kaihara says: "The electricity supply has been restored to almost all areas in Kobe City, and water and gas supplies will return to normal by the end of February. We plan to provide information not only through radio and TV programs, but also through issuing printed materials so that residents can have accurate information."

Pointing out the present situation, in which many people have been forced to wait in lines for long periods of time to submit applications for temporary housing, professor Yamamoto suggests a plan to send municipal government officials to evacuation sites so that people can take the necessary procedures in a shorter amount of time. Igarashi shows a favorable attitude to this idea, and vows further efforts to improve the situation. Kaihara says that although 100 circuit teams, consisting of city government officials and police officers, have been making the rounds of evacuation sites, it is extremely difficult to immediately meet the demands of nearly 300,000 evacuees.

Moderator Yamamoto shifts the topic to the issue of medical and welfare treatment for evacuees. Yoshimura says: "Although the mass media has repeatedly reported the problems in terms of the medical treatment systems for evacuees during past disasters, the government does not seem to have learned anything from those experiences. The Health and Welfare Ministry should prepare guidelines for medical activities in disaster relief operations." Ide shares this view, and note his intention to form guidelines with the cooperation of other ministries and agencies concerned. Asked about the effective utilization of the volunteer relief operation staff, Igarashi says: "There is not a third-party organization for coordinating the dispatch of volunteers. Taking advantage of this opportunity, the ministries and agencies concerned have begun making arrangements to establish a support system for volunteers." The discussion concludes at 0129 GMT.

Nakasone Discusses Disaster-Relief Measures

OW0102010895 Tokyo AERA in Japanese 6 Feb 95 p 22

[Report on an interview with Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone by editorial staff member Ichiro Saito; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Mobilization System**

[Nakasone] I think the prime minister has had hardly any contact with the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] because he is the chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] and he does not know the functions of the SDF very well. The SDPJ's awareness of defense and disasters is different from that of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]. The basic task of politics is to protect the people's lives, security, and property. Prime Minister Murayama was nurtured in the Diet and became prime minister unexpectedly; he was not ready for a disaster. In this sense, I feel sympathy for him. While the LDP has felt close to the SDF, the SDPJ has been allergic to it. Unfortunately, the recent earthquake exposed the relationship between the SDPJ and SDF.

It is necessary to set up a supreme command center in the government and in quake-hit areas as early as possible. The assistant to the commander should be the home affairs minister, not the director-general of the National Land Agency [NLA]. The responsibility for taking disaster measures lies first with the prefectural governor. The only person who can direct a governor, the police, and fire department is the chairman of the National Public Safety Commission and home affairs minister.

Metropolitan Area's Preparedness

I established the SDF mobilization system for disasters in 1971, when I was director-general of the Defense Agency. According to the system, upon occurrence of an earthquake, the SDF is to take control of the situation using 100 helicopters; information will then be sent to the Prime Minister's Office through television transmitter via the signal communications base in Kurihama, Kanagawa; in Tokyo, 200 helicopter bases will be set up as medical and fire fighting service bases; and the SDF first division stationed in Nerima, Tokyo will take charge of the metropolis while troops from Yamagata, Gunma, Yamanashi, and Nagoya, and airborne troops in Narashino, Chiba will be mobilized. Operation routes, areas to be covered by troops, and where to deploy the troops were already decided.

I think this first mobilization and relief system must certainly be revised to adapt to the changing social structure and urban living environment. The stagnation of political management in the area of disaster prevention is intolerable. Strong tremors are felt all over Japan, particularly in the Hokkaido, Sanriku, and Kyushu areas. As for the Kobe area, where the recent earthquake occurred, the establishment of an early warning system might have been needed.

Nationwide Disaster Prevention System

The government needs to set up a full-fledged research commission within the Cabinet with the aim of reviewing disaster prevention plans on a nationwide scale. There are many programs—such as city planning, vital utilities improvement, and building construction—that need to be reviewed. For the reconstruction of a city following a disaster, it is necessary to enact a law designed to give legal force, including the necessary compensation for damage or substitute measures, to public power. It is also necessary to study the central and local governments' roles in dealing with disasters and the possible tie-up of the SDF—which is an actual working force—and the police, Maritime Safety Agency, and fire departments. The most dangerous areas are special cities with a population of more than 500,000—especially designated by government ordinance and accorded the privilege of executing some administrative affairs that are ordinarily within the jurisdiction of the prefectural office. A study is needed on how these cities should cooperate with prefectural governments as well as with municipalities in dealing with disasters. Although it is necessary to promote decentralization of power to help local governments' in their independence efforts and to promote their cultural work, inter-government and special cities' cooperation is needed for the management of such social infrastructure as railways, highways, airports, and harbors.

I was very glad to see that many people volunteered to join rescue activities and help refugees. However, I have heard that there was some trouble during the relief activities because some volunteers were puzzled about what to do. I have recognized anew the importance of nurturing leaders at all levels chosen from among citizens in each municipality.

How To Promote Restoration

It is necessary to set up an objective for establishing ideal cities that have a disaster prevention system and can be models for other municipalities. Immediately after the Great Earthquake of 1923, the government formed a special organization for restoration. In view of the recent great earthquake, I think it may be necessary to form a similar organization. Dealing with disasters is too much for the current NLA. At present, foreign nations' concerns over Japan's weakness in the face of disaster may surface. However, the Japanese people's organizational ability is outstanding, and if a plan for restoration is worked out, it will also boost the economy.

Transfer of the Capital

We have to give serious consideration to the possibility of transferring the capital and establishing two capital cities. However, the hopeful cities that are eager to be the capital are all threatened by earthquakes. The recent earthquake made it clear that a capital should not be established in a place exposed to the fear of earthquakes.

Reportage on Quake Reconstruction Measures

Ministers Propose Plans

OW3101145495 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0309 GMT 31 Jan 95

[Announcer-read report; from the "NHK News 7" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] During a 31 January news conference following a cabinet meeting, ministers proposed relief measures to restore Kobe and other areas destroyed by the 17 January great Hanshin earthquake.

Construction Minister Koken Nosaka said that in launching a land readjustment project, the government will expand coverage of subsidies to include restoration of damaged public facilities such as parks and roads under 12 meters wide. He also proposed a plan to build apartments on land acquired by putting several house lots together, and set up a system whereby the owners of the former lots be compensated by receiving ownership of an apartment as part of the special rehabilitation legislation.

Home Affair Minister Hiromu Nonaka, commenting on Hyogo Prefecture's plan to create an approximately 300 billion yen disaster-relief fund to promote rehabilitation projects, said that residents in the quake-hit areas may have various calls for restoration that have yet to be answered by government-subsidized relief projects. He then noted that if Hyogo decides to create such funds to meet such requests, the government will do its best to support it through the local subsidy tax and other measures.

Health and Welfare Minister Shoichi Ide said his ministry will instruct Hyogo prefecture to provide tatami mats and partitions to emergency shelters because it will take more time to provide temporary houses to quake victims due to the prolonged disaster. [passage omitted covered by referent item]

Labor Minister Manzo Hamamoto, during today's ministerial informal meeting held after the cabinet meeting, said that early next week he will ask business organizations to request that companies damaged by the Hanshin earthquake not cancel their temporary decisions concerning the employment of collage graduates. He said the employment adjustment subsidy will be provided to companies accepting this request and the government is now considering sharing some of the payments for those graduates even if companies lay them off immediately after their recruitment.

Relief for Major Firms Proposed

OW3101033695 Tokyo KYODO in English 0256 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Jan. 31 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto proposed Tuesday [31 January] the government provide relief measures to major corporations as well as small firms affected by the massive earthquake of Jan. 17 in western Japan.

"Self-help efforts are basically necessary in the case of rehabilitating large corporations but the latest natural disaster was devastating enough to prompt us to think about government support for such companies," Hashimoto told a news conference.

"Reconstruction of quake-hit large companies would benefit their subcontractors too," Hashimoto said.

The quake ravaged kobe and the surrounding areas, the center of the Hanshin Industrial Zone where all kinds of corporations—both major and small—are concentrated.

Hashimoto cited tax incentives and preferential finance as possible steps for large corporations.

He also proposed "flexible" enforcement of the government's employment adjustment subsidy.

Small companies that escaped damage in the quake but assist reconstruction of the quake-stricken parent companies, for example, could be subject to such a subsidy, Hashimoto said.

Tax Hike To Raise Revenue

OW0102050995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0429 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi acknowledged Wednesday [1 February] that the government is considering a tax hike to raise revenues to finance reconstruction-related expenditures following the Jan. 17 quake that ravaged Kobe and surrounding areas.

The government's top spokesman told a news conference, "Prime Minister Murayama and Finance Minister Takemura have said the government will consider many options (for securing revenues) and the wording 'many options' means the willingness to consider every measure."

Igarashi made the comments in response to a reporter's question on press reports that the government is considering bringing forward the timing of an implementation of a planned raise in the 3 percent consumption tax as well as the scope of other tax increase steps.

He said the government started consideration of a tax hike as a means of placing under control an expected snowballing of budget deficits as a result of a proposed massive issuance of deficit- covering bonds.

The outstanding balance of Japan's government bonds stands at more than 200 trillion yen at present, prompting budget drafters and economists to warn of a further drainage of fiscal resources for policy measures.

The government's original plans called for raising the rate of the consumption tax to 5 percent starting in April 1997. The NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN reported Wednesday that the hike may be implemented as early as April 1996 to counteract the quake's fallout.

Igarashi said, "Huge fiscal expenditures are expected to be made to carry out reconstruction, so we want (relevant ministries) to come up with conclusions (on revenue measures) as quickly as possible to enable the Diet to deliberate" on the measures.

Keidanren Head on Quake Damage, Economic Growth

OW0102062995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0555 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—The damage from the Jan. 17 earthquake in western Japan centering on Kobe will top 13 trillion yen, rather than the initially estimated 7 to 8 trillion yen, a top business leader said Wednesday [1 February].

Shoichiro Toyoda, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) said, "More damage from the disaster has been found as time goes by, and our organization's newest estimates show the total damage can top 13 trillion yen."

Toyoda gave the estimate at a lecture meeting sponsored by KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

He called on the government to take all necessary fiscal and monetary measures to help recovery of the quake-hit region.

As for the medium-term economic outlook, Toyoda said Japan should seek steady growth with an average growth rate of 3 percent to 4 percent.

"Japan's economy was just poised to pick up last year, and this year, we should bring about a real recovery."

The government should do its best to achieve its projection of a real 2.8 percent growth rate in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in fiscal 1995, which begins April 1, he said.

Japan's economy grew at an average rate of 10 percent in the 1960s, and about 4 percent in the 70s and the 80s, he noted.

The rate has fallen to the 1 percent level so far in the 1990s, but this level is rather an exception because of the still-lingering effects of the collapse of the speculative "bubble" economy, Toyoda said.

Thus, Japan should aim at 3 percent growth, a realistic level for now in the aftermath of recession, but in time a growth level of 4 percent should be sought, he said.

"Some experts say that level of growth is not achievable, but I believe there is room for the growth rate because Japan's savings level is still high and the environment for investment remains stable."

Touching on recent doubts expressed by economists that Japan lacks a so-called "leading industry," Toyoda said there may not be such an industry in the old-fashioned sense that a big industry leads others.

It is time now for all industries to create new value-added products or new high-quality services, and in that sense, "all industries should be leading industries," he said.

This can be done by nurturing "more creative" workers and bringing about the much-talked-about deregulation by the government, Toyoda said.

Auto Industry's Vulnerability To Quakes Cited

OW3101142695 Tokyo SHUKAN DAIYAMONDO in Japanese 4 Feb 95 p 85

[Unattributed article]

[FBIS Translated Text] "I realized that it is impossible to protect an extensive industry like the automobile industry from earthquakes. Even if automobile factories remain undamaged, if an earthquake destroys the auto parts manufacturers, that will bring an end to the industry," said Osamu Suzuki painfully, Suzuki Motor Corporation president.

A week after the great Hanshin earthquake devastated parts of western Japan, the factories of Toyota Motor Corporation, Mazda Motor Corporation, and Daihatsu Motor Corporation resumed production, which had been halted due to the disrupted infrastructure and direct damage caused by the killer earthquake.

However, at this moment, no one can predict what kind of impact the earthquake will bring on automobile production because the Japanese auto industry is structured in such a manner that auto makers subcontract out to auto parts manufacturers who in turn have subcontractors under them. The damage to primary auto parts makers directly supplying their products to the auto makers will be quickly ascertained.

But when it comes to the secondary and tertiary subcontractors, the effect of the Hanshin earthquake remains unknown. A number of small and medium-sized chemical engineering companies, some of which were thought to be producers of special auto parts, were located in the fire-destroyed Nagata Ward of Kobe City.

A worried auto maker executive said: "As we continue our research on the earthquake's damage, we may find destroyed factories that have been doing subcontracted work for all the auto makers."

The three makers could resume production since the supply from the primary auto parts makers has been ensured for the moment. Damage to the secondary and tertiary industries may not be so bad as to stop the production line, but it could cause a drop in the number of produced units.

Another anxiety factor is the disrupted infrastructure. Every maker is now taking a detour to the Sanin region, but the traffic congestion is causing problems. The "just-in-time" system's production line, which aims at minimizing the stock of auto parts as much as possible, is easily affected when this type of massive disaster occurs.

"Revamping the current production system is out of the question when we compare damages from this earthquake with the advantages gained from the system during normal circumstance," said Iichi Shinmiya, Daihatsu Corporation vice president, the auto maker hardest-hit by the earthquake's damage. As far as the auto industry is concerned, the Hanshin earthquake is said to have caused less damage than a Tokai or Tokyo earthquake could cause—another big one is expected to hit these areas in the future. However, the truth is that the auto companies have no system to protect themselves from earthquakes when one actually hits them.

National Land Agency Under Heavy Fire

OW3101022695 Tokyo SHUKAN DAIYAMONDO in Japanese 2 Feb 95 p 15

[From the "Business Inside" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] The earthquake that hit the southern part of Hyogo Prefecture has turned into the worst disaster Japan has experienced since the end of World War II. Openly expressing anger at the government's poor response to the disaster, one scholar criticized: "There was a complete delay in laying out the steps necessary to respond to the earthquake in the initial stages. The fact that Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama seemingly has a strong allergy to the Self-Defense Forces and the U.S. Military has resulted in hundreds of people falling victim to the quake. How can anyone call the Murayama administration a government that cares for the people?"

Although we rarely see a leader of a country who is so helpless in times of emergency, we even found his subordinates to be helpless. The National Land Agency [NLA], headed by Director General Kiyoshi Ozawa, has been severely criticized since the government fell into utter confusion because, in addition to the "slow response" of Ozawa himself, the agency's administrative authorities hampered designating the quake-devastated area a severe disaster site by insisting that procedures be followed.

In some quarters of the ruling coalition parties, there have even arisen "arguments that the NLA is no longer necessary." Finally, on 20 January—three days after the quake—Ozawa was dismissed from participating in the government's disaster-handling efforts. A post of "minister in charge of disaster handling" was set up instead, and Sadatoshi Ozato, director general of both the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies, was appointed to this post. Officially, the action was intended for reinforcing command over disaster affairs. However, it must have been quite embarrassing for Ozawa, who was dismissed from his prime responsibilities as the director general of the NLA. Looking at this in another way, it is "like giving budget compilation power to the trade minister even though there is a finance minister for the job," (as stated by a government source).

Of course, disaster handling was too heavy a responsibility for Ozawa to bear in the first place. Ozawa fulfilled his long-awaited ambition to become a cabinet minister for the first time with the inauguration of the Murayama administration. However, his inborn easy-going character seems to have worked against him. He decided to stick to "staying on alert in Tokyo" after the quake. It was not until after urging by Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi that Ozawa finally decided to inspect the disaster sites. Ozawa is well known for his spiritlessness, as he always "does nothing until bureaucrats prepare everything for him, and even then he makes mistakes in reading documents prepared for answering questions" (as stated by a reporter in charge of NLA affairs). Therefore, it was all the more necessary to replace Ozawa with veteran politician Ozato, who is as ready to talk as to work, in order to dodge the opposition's criticism during the ongoing ordinary Diet session.

Meanwhile, regarding the entire NLA, which has exposed its incompetence, a view that the NLA "cannot be left to handle the disaster, and a reconstruction agency should be set up immediately" is becoming widespread in some quarters of the ruling parties.

In alarm, the NLA is rushing to carry out such steps as to prepare special legislation which the prime minister's office is seeking. Under the current circumstances, however, the NLA will likely become a convenient target of administrative reform efforts.

North Korea

Democratic Front Denounces ROK Nuclear Dump

SK0102104295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 1 Feb 95

["Criminal Act of Kim Yong-sam Group in Designating Kulop Islet as Nuclear Waste Dump Denounced"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 1 (KCNA)—The propaganda department of the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic

Front made public an indictment on January 21, denouncing the criminal act of the Kim Yong-sam group in designating the Kulop Islet as a nuclear waste dump, according to a report of radio Voice of National Salvation from Seoul.

The indictment says that the Kim Yong-sam regime had chosen Uljin and Yongil Counties, North Kyongsang Province, on the east coast as candidate sites and then designated Kulop Islet, Tokjok-myon, Ongjin County, Kyonggi Province, a solitary island in the West Sea, as a permanent nuclear waste dump. Noting that this decision has aroused protests from the people of all social strata in the North and the South, the indictment says this is because it has five serious points at issue.

The indictment further says:

Kulop Islet has been designated as a nuclear waste dump for political reasons, not for scientific and technical pertinence. The Kim Yong-sam regime considers that it can minimize the resistance of the residents because there are only nine people of five families on this islet and it does not want to get on the nerves of the population of Kangwon and North and South Kyongsang Provinces, its main support in voting, with the approach of "elections to the local autonomous bodies".

Kulop Islet has serious points at issue in safety and management of nuclear waste.

Chongwadae [ROK presidential offices] assesses Kulop Islet as a "most safe place" in geographical environments, geological and hydrologic conditions and traffic conditions, but this is a political jargon to hoodwink people. The islet is situated at a place where it may have a direct radioactive effect on most densely populated areas and from the (?meteorological) point of view, is within the sphere of earthquake and tidal waves that have frequently occurred in the middle of the west coast.

In view of traffic conditions, the transportation of nuclear waste from nuclear power plants in Yongil, Uljin and Kori on the east coast and in Yonggwang on the west coast to Kulop Islet of the West Sea by ships is very dangerous, considering that modernly equipped large ships of tens of thousands of tons meet with frequent disasters.

The islet is one third or fourth of the area (two million pyong) needed for the management of nuclear waste. When the storage is built separately from the management facilities, the nuclear waste dump of the islet will be out of the primary attention of the management collective.

The islet, situated near the Military Demarcation Line, is fraught with a permanent danger of big damages not only to the people of South Korea but also to the territory and people of the North.

The islet near Inchon and Kanghwa Island, a military strategic point, cannot but be a fierce battlefield in case of a war. When the nuclear fuel stored here explodes, the whole territory of the country will be reduced to a waste land unfit for human habitation.

The indictment calls upon all the people and fellow countrymen to turn out in a struggle to frustrate the criminal scheme of the Kim Yong-sam clique to turn Kulop Islet into a deadly nuclear waste dump.

SKNDF Welcomes Appeal for Joint Meeting

SK0102051495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0435 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 1 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) issued a statement on January 28 in support of the appeal to political parties, organizations and fellow countrymen from all walks of life in South Korea and overseas, which was adopted at a joint meeting of the political parties and organizations of the DPRK, the radio Voice of National Salvation reported from Seoul.

The spokesman said that the momentous initiative to hold a great national conference at which the common way of national reunification will be discussed and defined, is a timely and reasonable one most correctly reflecting the steadfast aspirations of the South Korean people and all other fellow countrymen for the reunification.

Considering that the initiative laid down in the appeal of the joint meeting of the political parties and organizations in the North is an important step to adorn this year, in which falls the 50th anniversary of the country's liberation on August 15, a year of opening a turning phase for the national reunification movement, Hanminjon, representing the desire and will of people of different strata, fully supports and welcomes it, he declared.

Pointing out that the Kim Yong-sam traitorous group is opposing the convocation of a great national conference, the spokesman denounced it as a vicious anti-reunification, separatist scheme to bar the people of all walks of life once again from participating in the reunification dialogue.

He said that parties, groupings and personages of different strata in South Korea should express support for the call of the North for discussing and confirming the nation's common way of reunification and join in the struggle for its realization.

Dialogue Denounces South Naval Policy, Programs

SK3101213795 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0640 GMT 31 Jan 95

[Dialogue between reporters Hong Tae-yong and Kim Hye-kyong: "South Korean Warmongers' Criminal Attempt"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hong] How are you? The Kim Yong-sam group's new war preparation maneuvers are being perpetrated more viciously as the days pass by.

According to a report, the South Korean puppets on 20 January held a so-called meeting of major naval commanders and formulated and announced the basis of this year's policy of the puppet navy and seven-point major programs.

According to this, the establishment of a perfect combat readiness posture and enhancement of a three-dimensional operation capability are the basis of the 1995 policy. The major tasks to be pushed ahead are implementing systematization work, fostering officers and men of a crack unit, and establishing a perfect combat readiness posture and positive activities of the navy.

Needless to say, all this is a trick to further strengthen preparations for a northward war of aggression.

[Kim] You are right. As is known to all, the puppet navy has recently been rapidly reinforced. According to a report in Japan's ASAHI SHIMBUN, the puppets surpass the British Navy in terms of the number of marine combat ships.

Besides, the puppets are pushing ahead with the plan to have more submarines than Japan. Not satisfied with this, the puppets are scheming to further strengthen the combat power of the puppet navy by clamoring about establishment of a perfect combat readiness posture, promotion of a three-dimensional operation capability, fostering officers and men of crack units, and so forth.

This has undisguisedly exposed the criminal attempt of the traitorous Kim Yong-sam clique to dash along the road of North-South confrontation and war this year, too, as last year, by going counter to the trend of the times and to the nation's aspiration.

[Hong] Yes, you are right. This year marks the 50th year the nation and people were divided by outside forces. All fellow countrymen in the North, the South and overseas, who suffered pains of division for over half a century, are rising in the grand reunification march to open a turning point for national reunification this year by all means.

Indeed, it is now time for us to remove military confrontation and to create an atmosphere favorable to peace and peaceful reunification.

Nevertheless, the traitorous Kim Yong-sam clique has not discarded the anachronistic concept of confrontation. Furthermore, it is more wildly running amok with maneuvers of a northward war of aggression under the ambition to achieve reunification through victory over communists in the manner of war.

[Kim] That is right. How frantically the South Korean puppets are running amok is shown by the fact that they drastically increased this year's war budget over that of the last year; that they are reeking powder kegs by recklessly firing guns and rifles along the Military Demarcation Line area, and that they are straining the situation by staging war exercises each day against fellow countrymen in collusion with outside forces.

The Kim Yong-sam group is indeed a group of wicked warmongers who are not interested in the trend of the times and in the nation's aspiration for peaceful reunification, but are pursuing only internal strife between the same people.

The ringleaders who threaten peace and security on the Korean peninsula and aggravate tensions are none other than the Kim Yong-sam group. As long as the Kim Yong-sam clique, the group of warmongers who are only dreaming of provocation of a northward war of aggression, is left intact, the nation's suffering from war calamities, not to mention the nation's peaceful reunification, cannot be avoided.

[Hong] That is right. The Kim Yong-sam group, facing a serious crisis in its rule by being rejected by the people, is scheming to seek a way out by using military means against the fellow countrymen.

From the beginning of the new year, the military leaders made bellicose remarks one after another urging a high degree of combat readiness posture and maintenance of an alert posture. Timed to coincide with this, the puppet navy held a war confab and formulated and announced the basis of an adventurous policy and major tasks. This is no accident at all.

The Kim Yong-sam group, which is continually dashing along the road of North-South confrontation and war, will suffer greater curses, condemnation, and rejection by the people at home and abroad and because of this, the rascals' downfall will be further expedited.

Japanese Guest Arrives in Pyongyang 31 Jan

SK0102044595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 1 (KCNA)—Hiroshi Wakabayashi [name as received], vice-chairman of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea and secretary general of the Japan Committee for Support to the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea, flew here on Tuesday.

The guest was met at the airport by Yi Song-ho, vice-chairman of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries.

Japanese Tourist Study Group Leaves Pyongyang

SK3101054195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 31 (KCNA)—The Japanese tourist study group consisting of above 120 members left for home today after winding up its 5-day visit to Korea for the preparations of the Pyongyang International Sports and Cultural Festival for Peace to be held at the end of April.

The visit of the group has been paid under the tourist plan for the Pyongyang festival, which was recently agreed upon between the Korea international travel company and the Chugai Travel Co., Ltd. and the Japan travel bureau.

The group members expressed their willingness to make all efforts for successful Pyongyang festival in April.

Japanese Meetings Held To Thank Kim Chong-il

SK0102104595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, January 30 [date as received] (KNS-KCNA)—Meetings were held in Hyogo and Osaka on January 28 to extend thanks to the great leader Marshal Kim Chong-il for having sent a relief fund to the Koreans suffering from the great Hanshin earthquake in Japan.

At the meetings Ho Chong-man, chief vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), read out a telegram Marshal Kim Chong-il sent to Chairman Han Tok-su regarding the relief fund.

Reporters and speakers there said that any ordeal and hardship could be overcome as long as there are respected Marshal Kim Chong-il and the might of unity around Chongnyon. And they vowed to do their utmost to heal the quake damages as soon as possible in a united effort.

Letters to Marshal Kim Chong-il were adopted at the meetings.

Russian Party Leader Receives WPK Delegation

SK3001120995 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 25 January, (Gennadiy Zyuganov), chairman of the Standing Committee of the Central Executive Committee of the Russian Federal Communist Party [RFCP], received a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], led by Pak Kyong-son, vice director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, at the State Duma of the Russian Federation.

In the meeting, the delegation head conveyed greetings from the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il to Chairman (Gennadiy Zyuganov).

Expressing his deep gratitude, the chairman wished the respected Comrade Kim Chong-il great success in his work to lead the party and the state, and to achieve the country's prosperity, while also wishing him good health and a long life.

Expressing his deep gratitude to the WPK leadership [chidobu] for sending a party delegation to the Third Congress of the RFCP, he stressed that the successes and experiences the WPK has achieved in its party building are particularly valuable to the RFCP.

He pointed out that the RFCP would strengthen its relationship and cooperation with the WPK.

SRV Party, State Leaders Receive Delegation

SK0102051095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 1 (KCNA)—General Secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Communist Party of Vietnam Do Muoi and president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Le Duc Anh, respectively received the visiting DPRK Government cultural delegation led by Chang Chol, vice-premier of the Administration Council and Minister of Culture and Art, on January 28 and 29.

General Secretary Do Muoi said on the occasion that the death of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people, last year is a great loss to the party, state and people of Korea as well as to socialism.

The proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo is a good proposal for national reunification, he said, hoping for an earlier reunification of Korea.

Expressing deep thanks to the Korean party, Government and people for their support and encouragement to the Vietnamese people in the past struggle for the national liberation and reunification, Do Muoi said: "I hope that the solidarity and cooperation between the two parties, governments and peoples of Vietnam and Korea will further strengthen and develop."

President Le Duc Anh said the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties and countries of Vietnam and Korea were established and developed personally by President Ho Chi Minh, the great leader of the Vietnamese people, and President Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people. "To strengthen and develop these relations is a responsible task facing the peoples of the two countries," he added.

Cultural Delegation Returns From China, Vietnam

SK3101102795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 31 (KCNA)—A government cultural delegation of the DPRK led by Chang Chol, vice-premier of the Administration Council and minister of culture and art today came back home after visiting China and Vietnam.

It was met at the airport by Choe Ki-yong, chairman of the State Education Commission, officials concerned, Qiao Zonghuai, Chinese ambassador to Korea, and Duong Chinh Thuc, Vietnamese ambassador to Korea.

Cuban Foreign Minister Ends Visit 31 Jan

SK3101053295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 31 (KCNA)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez, who is Politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Communist Party of Cuba, and his companions left here today, concluding the 4-day official goodwill visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Present at the airport to see off the guests were Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, who is Politburo member of the C.C., the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-premier, officials concerned and Cuban Ambassador to Korea Jose Ramon Rodriguez Varona and his embassy officials.

Earlier, on Monday, the Cuban ambassador gave a party upon the conclusion of the foreign minister's Korean visit.

During the stay here the guests visited Mangyongdae, the Mangyongdae School Children's Palace and the Party Founding Museum.

They appreciated a music and dance performance at the Mansudae Art Theatre.

Indian Prime Minister Meets North Envoy 24 Jan

SK0102015795 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 24 January, Indian Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao received Cha Pong-kyu, our country's ambassador to this country.

In the meeting, the ambassador conveyed greetings from the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il to Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao. The prime minister expressed deep gratitude for this and asked the ambassador to convey his heartfelt greetings to the great leader [yongdoja] his excellency Kim Chong-il.

The prime minister said he truly wishes the great leader [yongdoja] his excellency Kim Chong-il happiness and long life.

Greetings Sent to Bulgarian Premier, Minister

SK0102102695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 1 (KCNA)—Premier Kang Song-san sent a message of greetings to Zhan Videnov upon his election as Bulgarian prime minister.

The message wished him success in his responsible work and expressed the belief that the cooperative relations between the two countries would favourably develop.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam sent a message of greetings to Georgi Pirinski upon his election as Bulgarian foreign minister.

Group Promoting Europe-DPRK Relations Formed

SK0102042495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0412 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 1 (KCNA)—An inaugural meeting of the Association For the Promotion of Europe- DPRK relations was held in Paris on January 24.

At the meeting chairman, vice-chairman and general secretary were elected.

Former Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of France Jeannou Lacaze [name as received], who was elected chairman of the association, in his speech said that the purpose of the inauguration of the association was to make France and other European countries improve and promote relations with the DPRK.

He said, to this end a primary attention should be directed to widely introducing Korea among political and economic circles of France and letting them promote cooperation and exchange in the economic field.

Envoy Pays Farewell Call on Pakistani President

SK0102015195 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Choe Song-il, our country's ambassador to Pakistan, paid a farewell call on Pakistani President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari on 26 January.

In the meeting, the ambassador conveyed greetings from the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il to President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari. The president expressed deep gratitude for this and asked the ambassador to convey his heartfelt greetings to the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The president said he is happy to see the DPRK people achieve great success in every field of society under the wise leadership of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, even though the great leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song regrettably passed away. He said Pakistan and the DPRK have historic and traditional friendly relations and that such friendly relations were fostered by the great leader his excellency President Kim Il-song and respected his excellency Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

He stressed that he hopes the brilliant friendly relations between the two countries will further expand and develop in all domains, including economy and culture.

Socialist Youth Delegation Departs for Portugal

SK3001105395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 30 (KCNA)—A delegation of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea led by Choe Hyon-tok, vice-chairman of its Central Committee, left here today to participate in the 14th Congress of the World Federation of Democratic Youth scheduled in Lisbon.

Chang Chol Said Premier of Administration Council

SK0102135895 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Mt. Paektu prize sports game has opened. Outstanding champions in the central and local areas who made achievements in sports events by vigorously carrying out the ideological warfare, war of the will for struggle, the speed battle, and technological warfare put forward by the party, will participate in the upcoming sports events, which will be held in the wake of significant February holidays. [passage omitted on type of games]

The ceremony for the opening of the Mt. Paektu prize sports event was held in the weight-lifting gymnasium on Chongchun Street on 1 February.

Comrade Chang Chol, premier of the Administration Council [name and title as heard]; officials concerned, including Won tong-ku; and sportsmen attended the ceremony. [passage omitted on speech made by Pak Myong-chol, chairman of the State Physical Culture and Sports Committee]

KPA Meeting Participants Tour Mangyongdae

SK0102064495 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The participants of the ninth Korean People's Army [KPA] agitators meeting have visited Mangyongdae, the cradle of the revolution. The meeting participants first offered bundles of flowers and flower buds to the tombs of Mr. Kim Po-hyon, the grandfather; Mrs. Yi Po-ik, the grandmother; Mr. Kim Hyong-chik, the father; and Mrs. Kang Pan-sok; the mother of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, and observed a minute's silence as a tribute of reverence to them.

Listening to the explanation on how the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was born and spent his childhood nurturing his grand plan for the revolution, they visited the old home of Mangyongdae and toured the Mangyongdae museum of revolutionary artifacts.

They could not turn their eyes away from the valuable artifacts and historical data carefully preserved in the sacred place of the revolution, and could not help revering and adoring the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song—the sun of the nation, the ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander—who devoted his all to the country, the people, and the cause of chuche Army building from the time when he left the old home to the last moment of his life.

The meeting participants visited the Taesongsan Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery, offered bundles of flowers and flower buds, observed a minute's silence as a tribute of respect to the anti-Japanese revolutionary martyrs who gave their lives for the country's liberation and the completion of the cause of the chuche revolution, and toured the martyrs' cemetery.

The meeting participants toured the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces museum of revolutionary artifacts. Looking at the artifacts showing the immortal Army-leading achievements of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the respected and beloved Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, who strengthened and developed our People's Army, leaving the traces of their sacred leadership at every guardpost of the country, the meeting participants felt great pride and revolutionary self-respect as gun-bearing fighters.

Through the tour, the meeting participants came to deep awareness once again of the importance of the political and ideological work in implementing the teachings of the fatherly leader who initiated the chuche Army-building cause. They resolved firmly that they will wholeheartedly and loyally uphold the leadership of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander and effect a revolutionary upturn in the propaganda and agitation work so that they can further strengthen the political and military might of the People's Army.

More Kim Chong-il Birthday Celebrations Abroad

SK0102102795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 1 (KCNA)—Celebrations of the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il took place in different countries.

Different functions were held in Ulaanbaatar under the cosponsorship of the Mongolia-Korea Friendship Association and the Mongolian Centre for the Study of the Chuche Idea.

Addressing a celebration meeting Chairman of the Mongolia-Korea Friendship Association S. Surenjav said:

Respected Comrade Kim Chong-il is leading the Korean people to victory.

I visited Korea and saw the achievements made by the Korean people in the socialist construction.

We believe that the Korean people will gain greater success in their socialist construction under the leadership of respected Comrade Kim Chong-il.

At a seminar on the greatness of the great leader President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il held after the meeting, chief of the Mongolian Centre for the Study of the Chuche Idea Yo. Maxim said:

Respected Comrade Kim Chong-il is the great leader of the Korean people.

Comrade Kim Chong-il has written many works with his extraordinary intelligence from his days at university.

He is highly respected by peoples of different countries.

All the achievements of the Korean people in the socialist construction are the result of the wise leadership of respected Comrade Kim Chong-il.

A celebration meeting was sponsored by the Yugoslavia-Korea Friendship Association in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

At the meeting a gift to Comrade Kim Chong-il was handed to the DPRK ambassador to Yugoslavia.

Meanwhile, DPRK photo exhibitions and film shows were held by the Home Ministry of Ghana, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Ghana, the Ilala district, Dar Es Salaam, Committee of the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania and the Preparatory Committee for the Formation of the Zairean Group for the Study of the Chuche Idea of Kim Chong-il on Comrade Kim Chong-il's birthday.

Kim Chong-il, Foreign Leaders Exchange Cards

SK0102102595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1003 GMT 1 Feb 95

[All names and titles as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 1 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il exchanged New Year's cards with foreign state and party leaders.

They were Chairman of the Armed Forces Transitional Ruling Council and head of State of the Republic of Gambia Yahya Jammeh, President of the Republic of Rwanda Bizimungu Pasteur, President of the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic Liamine Zeroual, President of the Russian Federation B. Yeltsin, President of the Swiss Confederation Kaspar Villiger, President of the Czech Republic Vaclav Havel, Prime Minister of Grenada Nicholas Brathwaite, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Syria Youssef Faisal, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Sri Lanka Communist Party Raja Collure, General Secretary of the National Convention Party of Ghana Alhaji A. B. Ziblim, General Secretary of the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania Lawrence Mtazama Gama, General Secretary of the Unionist Democratic Union of Tunisia Abderrahman Tlili, Chairman of the Communist Party of Denmark Betty Frydensbjerg Carlsson, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Malta Vassalo Anthony, leader of the Malta Labour Party Alfred Sant, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the New Communist Party of Netherlands Tineke Beltman, leader of the People's National Congress of Guyana H. Desmond Hoyte, national Chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Nicaragua Adolfo Jarquin, Chairman of the Democratic Movement of Nicaragua Roberto Urroz, Chairman of the Nationalist Labour Movement of Peru Elear Zar Gutara Maravi, and Crown Prince of Thailand Maha Vajiralongkorn.

Soldiers, Working People at Kim Il-song Statue

SK3101213495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 31 (KCNA)—Working people, servicemen of the People's Army and school youth and children across the country laid floral baskets and bouquets before the statues of the great leader President Kim Il-song on January 31 on the Lunar New Year's Day.

People from all walks of life, People's Army soldiers and school youth and children who called at the statue of President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang laid baskets of flowers, bouquets and flowers before the statue of the great leader, who devoted his whole life to the popular masses' cause of independence and conducted energetic activities for the development and prosperity of the country, the happiness of the people, the reunification of the country and global independence till the last moments of his life.

Baskets of flowers, bouquets and flowers were laid before the statues of President Kim Il-song erected in all provinces.

Before the statues the people from all walks of life hardened their revolutionary faith and will to make their country, their motherland more prosperous and carry to completion the socialist cause of chuche under the leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

* Functionaries Urged To Aid Economic Strategy

952C0057A Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 6 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Let Functionaries Go Into Reality and Inspire the Masses to Still Greater Exploits"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Upholding the party's desire to serve faithfully for the people, our functionaries are today waging an energetic struggle to go deep among the producer masses and excellently fulfil their duties as the faithful servants of the people and the commanding personnel of the revolution. Our functionaries must give full play to this revolutionary ethos and vigorously organize and mobilize the masses in the struggle to implement the party's revolutionary economic strategy.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught as follows: "For the higher ranks to assist the lower ranks and for leading functionaries to go among the masses and carry out revolutionary tasks in hand by brining the energies and wisdoms of the masses into play is the communist work style of making upper and lower echelons unite with one mind and cooperate with each other so as to successfully implement revolutionary tasks—this is a revolutionary work style of coupling guidance to the masses."

For functionaries to go deep into reality to be on the spot of activity and inspire the masses to greater exploits is an important requirement in satisfactorily fulfilling their duties and role as the commanding personnel of the revolution.

Our functionaries are not bureaucrats but the faithful servants of the people and the revolutionaries who live among the masses, educating them, binding them together, and organizing and mobilizing them in the revolutionary struggle. Only by going into reality and working in it can functionaries listen to the voices of the masses and actively galvanize party members and workers into implementing the revolutionary tasks in the way the party wants.

For our functionaries to go deep into reality and inspire the masses to new exploits aries as a more important requirement in conjunction with the revolutionary tasks confronting us today.

Currently, our people are waging a vigorous struggle to implement the party's economic strategy, upholding the teachings of the late respected and beloved leader. The revolutionary economic strategy set forth by our party is a bold one aimed at dramatically improving the people's standard of living in the near future; and its successful implementation depends in large measure on the role our functionaries play. Only by going deep into reality can our functionaries search out more production reserves and conduct their command and operation function in a more scientific and dynamic manner, with a full knowledge of what is going on at the base level. Under the circumstances where a vigorous struggle is under way to bring this year's struggle to a brilliant conclusion, numerous revolutionary suggestions are being made and numerous problems that need be resolved are being presented in every sector and in every field. This cries for a fool-proof organization of production. The whole country, bustling with the last phase of the struggle to adorn this year with a still greater victory, is exerting great efforts to prepare for a better struggle next year. Now is the time for our functionaries to go deeper into reality than ever before and inspire the masses to new heroic exploits by a bold operational plan, skillful command, and spirited political work. Deeply mindful of the intentions of the party and the demands of reality, all functionaries must always go into reality and inspire the producer masses to innovations and exploits so that they may adorn this year with a brilliant victory and bring about continual upsurges in socialist construction.

Firmly possessing party loyalty, the working-class spirt, and people- mindedness is a prerequisite for functionaries in going deep into reality and going deep among the masses to work in accordance with the desires of the party.

To go into reality is what the party demands, and it is an important expression of the working-class spirit and people-mindedness. As illustrated by the experiences of the Chonchon County Commercial Management Office and the Maengsan County functionaries, when functionaries burn with a strong, passionate desire to implement party decisions and instructions unconditionally to the end, with strong party loyalty and people-mindedness, they are bound to be out on the spot of activity where the struggle for production is under way and achieve successes in their work.

With a strong enthusiasm to work harder for the party, the revolution, and the country and the people, all functionaries must go among the masses and wage a vigorous struggle to bring their inexhaustible creative wisdom into full play. Not forgetting even for a moment that they are the faithful servants of the people, our functionaries must always stay with the masses and make strenuous efforts to meet their demands. All our functionaries should arm themselves watertight with the party's chuche view of the masses and make it their habit to go among the masses.

In order for our functionaries to go into reality and inspire the masses to greater exploits, it is important for them to become one with the masses and live and work with them with one mind and accord.

If functionaries actually go out to the base level but do not mix with the masses and only hang around in the office and fail to concretely understand what is actually going on there, then they will be unable not only to conduct their operation and command function in a dynamic manner to suit the demands of reality, but also to carry out their work boldly. Cherishing in their hearts the true meaning of the party slogan "Let the whole party go among the masses," our functionaries should always go down to the base level and work and live together with the producer masses. Functionaries must go deep into reality with a strong sense of responsibility and clearly perceive every detail of the real situation—problems such as whether the struggle to fulfill this year's plans ahead of schedule is proceeding as scheduled, and what the cardinal tasks are that hold the key to the fulfillment of this year's plans, and what the bottlenecks are——and help solve problems in hand and meet the demands of the masses. They must make sustained efforts to find better ways to fulfill this year's plans even 1 day or 1 hour ahead of schedule by talking sincerely with the masses, and execute their work in a bold and innovative manner by an accurate methodology adapted to the creativeness of the masses and the given condition.

The purpose of our functionaries in going into reality is, importantly, to drive home the noble desire of the party embodied in its revolutionary economic policy to party members and workers and thoroughly implement this policy by brining their energies into play.

Our functionaries must become propagandists and agitators themselves and vigorously carry out political work, that is, work with people, in various forms without formality or ceremony to suit the party intentions, in order to implant the meaning and importance of the party's revolutionary economic strategy deep in the minds of party members and workers. In so doing, our functionaries must make party members and workers accept our party's revolutionary economic strategy as a vital necessity and give full play to their indomitable spirit of devotion in the struggle for its implementation. Functionaries in the agricultural, light industry, and trade sectors must make party members and workers in their respective units wage a heroic struggle, deeply aware of their weighty responsibility in the implementation of the revolutionary economic strategy, so that they may achieve great successes in fulfilling the party's determination to drastically improve the people's standard of living. Functionaries in charge of important sectors of the national economy, such as electric power, coal, metals, and railway transportation, must implant deep in the minds of the producer masses the teachings of the respected and beloved leader, who until the last moment his great heart stopped beating, indicated what tasks they should perform in their respective units, so that they may bring their mass heroism into fully play in the implementation of the revolutionary economic policy.

More immediately, all functionaries must vigorously organize and mobilize party members and workers in the struggle to bring this year's battle to a brilliant conclusion and make full preparations for next year's battle. The spirit of the masses who have launched into the last phase of the battle is soaring. Functionaries should skillfully organize and spiritedly command the production battle to suit this requirement and make people continually set new standards and achieve new records everywhere by bringing the loyalty of our party members and workers into full play in the closing phase of this year's battle. Functionaries should go out to the base level to concretely size up and analyze the results of and the experience in the work performed this year and wage a vigorous organization and political work to have party members and workers make foolproof preparations so that they may magnificently push forward production in the coming year.

In order for functionaries to go into reality and inspire the masses to still greater exploits, it is important to give play to the revolutionary ethos of leading by personal example.

Whatever task they find in reality that will be helpful to the revolution and to the implementation of the party's revolutionary economic strategy, our functionaries should not try to choose between the dirty and clean ends of the stick but set their shoulders to the wheel ahead of others and lead the masses by practical example. Functionaries should think harder and move around more than others while working and living together with the producer masses. At the same time, functionaries should always posses a humble and simple demeanor as befitting the faithful servants of the people, treat the masses in a friendly way, and tenderly look after their work and livelihood with motherly kindness.

Great indeed is the hope the party pins on our functionaries in the implementation of the revolutionary economic strategy. All functionaries, not forgetting even for a moment the party's political trust in and great hopes on them, must always go into reality and inspire the masses to continual miracles and innovations in order to bring this year's battle to a brilliant end and effect revolutionary upsurges in socialist construction.

South Korea

IAEA, DPRK Fail To Reach Overall Agreement

SK3101232995 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2210 GMT 31 Jan 95

[By Cha Man-sun from Vienna]

[FBIS Translated Text] The International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and North Korea made some headway in their talks on North Korea's nuclear facilities. However, they failed to reach an overall agreement due to some remaining problems.

IAEA spokesman David Kyd revealed today [1 February] that in the negotiations held in Pyongyang last week, the two sides failed to settle several matters, including technical matters involving the reprocessing facility in Yongbyon.

Emphasizing the goodwill [houi] shown by North Korea during the Pyongyang negotiations, the spokesman said the IAEA hopes that an agreement will be reached soon. He added that an IAEA delegation may again visit Pyongyang, if necessary.

U.S.-North Meetings in Berlin, Pyongyang Viewed

SK0102060495 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 1 Feb 95 p 1

[Report by correspondents Yu Chae-sik and O Yong-hwan from Berlin and Tokyo]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 1 February North Korea and the United States held expert-level talks for the fourth consecutive day at the main building of the U.S. Embassy in Berlin to negotiate on the agreement for the supply of light-water reactors. They concluded the talks by issuing a joint press statement announcing that the two sides will resume the talks sometime next month.

In the meantime, a U.S. delegation led by Lynn Turk, deputy director of a section of the U.S. State Department [title as published], arrived in Pyongyang on 31 January and began on 1 February expert-level talks concerning establishing liaison offices.

In the expert-level talks held up to 31 January, North Korea and the United States discussed intensively the adoption of ROK-type reactors but failed to narrow difference in views, according to a report.

North Korea objected to the ROK-type reactor for technical and political reasons, stating that they could be sure of the safety of the ROK-type reactors. Meanwhile, the United States stressed that, in fact, there is no alternative but to choose the ROK-type.

In the meantime, in the expert-level talks on establishing liaison offices, held in Pyongyang, the United States strongly urged the North Korean side to implement the North Korean-U.S. agreed framework which calls for the resumption of inter-Korean talks.

It was learned that North Korea put forward a few prospective sites for the U.S. liaison office in Pyongyang and let the U.S. delegation inspect them, and that the two sides reviewed the agreement reached last year on matters such as the scope of activities permissible for the diplomats to be stationed in each other's country and the means of communications and delivery of goods.

No 'Notable Results' From Talks

SK0102071695 Seoul YONHAP in English 0654 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Berlin, Jan. 31 (YONHAP)—North Korea and the United States virtually completed their nuclear experts' talks here Tuesday without reaching a compromise on drafting an agreement on the provision of light-water nuclear reactors to the former.

The two sides are scheduled to close the four-day session on Wednesday after having technical consultation on the safety of atomic power plants, and resume bilateral negotiations during March.

The experts reportedly dealt with such issues as the style of light-water reactors, business scope, signatories for the accord, financial matters involving unit price and repayment and other conditions including North Korean obligations.

The two groups were unable to come to a consent on the selection of the South Korean-style reactors, an informed source at the meeting said.

The source explained that North Korea seemingly raised safety problems of the reactors, but actually it must be worrying about possible strengthening of Seoul's influence over Pyongyang, if the South Korean model is adopted.

The Pyongyang delegation had insisted that signing parties be the North Korea and the United States, while the American delegation proposed that the North and Korea Energy Development Organization (KEDO) be the signatories, according to the source.

As for the execution of the North's obligations in relation to the provision of the reactors, Pyongyang did not want to see its duties in the Geneva accord be expanded to meet those in the level of the KEDO, a multinational consortium, the source stated.

According to the source, both sides basically showed no difference that they would continue their efforts to make an early conclusion of the pact on light-water reactor supply, even if they did not bear any notable results at the Berlin meeting.

DPRK Raises Technical Issues

SK0102022595 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0100 GMT 1 Feb 95

[Berlin, YONHAP]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States and North Korea resumed the expert-level meeting in Berlin on 31 January. Continuing negotiations over the draft agreement on the supply of light-water reactors for North Korea, including the adoption of the ROK-type reactors, the two sides in fact concluded the talks.

The delegations of the two sides are reported to have continued to discuss the draft agreement on the supply of light-water reactors and conducted a final negotiation on such matters as the selection of the type of light-water reactors, the price for the supply, and reimbursement conditions.

It has been learned that in the talks, the United States and North Korea failed to narrow differences of views on the selection of the ROK-type reactor. Although the North Korean side raised on the surface technical issues such as the safety of the atomic power plant, North Korea is worried at heart that in case the ROK-type reactor is adopted, it will have a complex bearing on inter-Korean issues, strengthening the ROK Government's position regarding the North.

It has also been reported that the North Korean side maintained the position that the signatories to the agreement on the supply of light-water reactors should be the North Korean and the U.S. Governments, thus disagreeing with the U.S. side that recommended the bilateral agreement between North Korea and the Korea Energy Development Organization [KEDO].

It has been learned that whereas the U.S. side maintained the position to thoroughly ensure the implementation of the North Korean obligations in connection with the supply of light-water reactors, the North Korean side was reluctant to extend to the KEDO, an international organization, its obligations with the United States as stipulated in the Geneva agreement.

Today, the two sides are expected to exchange views over matters such as the atomic power plant technology, advice, and systematic adjustment connected with safety problems in case the North side introduces light-water reactors, and to officially conclude the meeting with a brief press statement.

Senator Lugar on ROK Role in Reactor Project

SK0102091895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0912 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—U.S. Senator Richard Lugar said Wednesday that South Korea will eventually play a central role for the project of providing the light-water nuclear reactors to North Korea and will also burden some 3 billion dollars out of a total of 4 billion dollars needed for the project.

The Republican senator, appearing at a dialogue program "World Net" with Asian journalists via satellite, said that Japan is likely to share some 1 billion dollars or a quarter of the total expenses for the reactor project.

Referring to the Washington-Pyongyang nuclear agreement reached in Geneva last October, Lugar asserted he does not believe the United States made one-sided concession in reaching the accord as it calls on both parties to strictly observe the obligations.

He said that North Korea's implementation of the accord will be fully checked in every stage such as the freezing of Pyongyang's nuclear activities.

In connection with the status of U.S. troops in South Korea, Lugar said the Republicans who hold a complete majority in the U.S. Congress extend strong support for the American forces stationing in South Korea as well as the increased defense outlay, adding "they will also attach great importance to the American defense commitment to South Korea."

He pointed out that North Korea is deploying three-quarter of its entire troops within 60 miles from the Military Demarcation Line bordering South Korea.

As long as North Korean threat exists, he continued, the United States must fulfill its obligation to the Allied countries just as it reinforced its forces under nuclear threat from North Korea last year.

As to the rumor that North Korea exports missiles to Middle East countries, he emphasized that he is opposed to any country's secret negotiations for arms dealing with North Korea to attain the goal of world peace and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

Government Studying Purpose of Pyongyang Festival

SK0102120295 Seoul YONHAP in English 1155 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—The government has started a comprehensive analysis on the nature, background and purpose of the "International Sports and Cultural Festival for Peace" which will be held in North Korean capital of Pyongyang in April.

A government official disclosed Wednesday that separate administrative measures will be worked out as soon as the government completes its own analysis.

The government analysis, the official stated, is being made on the judgment that the festival has some connection with the power succession of North Korea that has been remaining unsettled for nearly seven months since the death of former President Kim Il-song.

A senior official at the National Unification Board (NUB) said that he can hardly understand why Pyongyang hosts such a big event while "it still emphasizes the condolence over Kim's death at home and abroad. We are making an in-depth analysis on Pyongyang's real intention involving the festival."

He added that during the month when the festival is held, there are also other major "political events" such as Kim Il-song's birthday and the election of delegates to the 10th Supreme People's Congress.

Accuracy of Invitation to South Tourists Viewed

SK0102081895 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 1 Feb 95 p 4

[Article by Choe Won-ki]

[FBIS Translated Text] People are bewildered by North Korea's announcement that South Koreans are invited to the Pyongyang International Sports and Cultural Festival to be held at the end of April 1995.

Merryland Travel Service, a Bangkok travel agency that arranges tours to North Korea, recently ran an advertisement in THE NATION, an English language Thai newspaper, that North Korea will open the Pyongyang festival slated for 25 April to 1 May "to all people regardless of their nationalities—American, Japanese, or South Korean." The English term used was "South Korean."

The biggest question aroused by the advertisement is if the advertisement reflects the true intention of Pyongyang authorities.

The contradicting reactions of the travel agency and the North Korean Embassy in Bangkok are even more confusing.

Asked to confirm the contents of the 31 January advertisement, the travel agency said: "Our travel agency is authorized by the General Bureau of Tourism in Pyongyang to arrange tours to North Korea from Thailand. Anyone, including South Koreans, can apply for a visa to North Korea and visit Pyongyang during the festival."

On the other hand, the North Korean Embassy in Thailand is ambiguous, stating: "We do not know because the embassy is not directly involved with the issue. South Koreans who want to visit North Korea should first obtain approval from the South Korean Government."

It is not certain if the term "South Korean" used by the advertisement means overseas South Koreans who obtained foreign nationalities, or includes pure South Koreans.

A relevant official of the Bangkok tourism industry responded that the travel agency may have used the statement on its own to maximize the advertising effect.

North Korea is using a five-step channel to promote the Pyongyang festival through the Workers' Party of Korea, the General Bureau of Tourism, Koryo National Industrial Development Council, North Korean Embassies in various countries, and local travel agencies. Such a complicated promotion may have caused a gradual distortion of Pyongyang's true intention over time.

If the advertisement truly reflects the intention of North Korean leaders, experts analyze the move as a double strategy to show off the openness of the North Korean system, and harass South Korean society by selectively accepting South Korean figures. North Korea's intention to create a second Yim Su-kyong incident [the South Korean arrested for violation of the National Security Law after attending a reunification rally in Pyongyang in 1991] is also a possibility.

The ROK Government is confused by North Korea's double strategy. Since the government has repeatedly called for North Korea's opening up, it has no grounds to oppose the Pyongyang festival. The government cannot welcome overseas Koreans' trips to Pyongyang without government approval when dialogue between North and South Korean authorities is suspended.

Government Reacts to Advertisement

SK0102075295 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 0700 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The government will take proper measures after it grasps North Korea's true intent in advertising that ROK tourists can visit North Korea during the Pyongyang sports and cultural festival slated for April. The advertisement was carried by some newspapers in Bangkok.

A government official said today that it is difficult to trust the advertisement that ROK nationals can tour North Korea. He added that the government will prepare appropriate measures after grasping North Korea's true intention.

The government official stated: In December 1994 North Korea requested that a Japanese travel agency's advertisement for applications to visit the April festival exclude ROK nationals.

He also stated: It would be desirable if North Korea allowed ROK tourists to visit North Korea because it would show North Korea's full pledge to open up.

The official continued: In light of the attitude North Korea has shown up to the present, however, it would be difficult for North Korea to accept ROK tourists.

'Selective Basis' Possibility

SK0102033695 Seoul YONHAP in English 0257 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—A travel agency for North Korea has run in an English-language newspaper here an ad saying North Korea will accept peoples of all nationalities, including South Koreans, during the sports and cultural festival opening in Pyongyang late April.

According to the ad Merryland Travel Services ran in a recent edition of THE NATION, North Korea will be "open for all nationalities: American, Japanese and South Korean (travelers) are accepted" during the festival slated for Apr. 25-May 1.

The ad said applications for a visit to North Korea during the festival period would be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.

The travel agency, which was authorized by Pyongyang to promote North Korea's tourism in Thailand, told YONHAP Tuesday that during the festival any South Koreans can visit Pyongyang on North Korea's entry visa.

But a North Korean Embassy official said in a telephone interview he did not know anything about inviting South Koreans to Pyongyang during the festival because the embassy is not directly involved in the festival.

Asked if the ad really meant that South Koreans can visit the North during the festival, he avoided giving the answer, saying, "In the South, people planning to visit the North must first obtain the government's approval."

A North Korea watcher here said Pyongyang must have let the travel agency run the ad in a bid to accept South Korean travelers on an selective basis.

According to the ad, expenses for traveling North Korea eight days starting April 24 are set at 1,440 U.S. dollars, provided that two travelers will share a bedroom. In case a traveler uses a bedroom for himself or herself alone, 240 dollars will be added.

The travel course will cover Pyongyang, Kaesong, Panmunjom, lake Samil, Mt. Kumgang, Wonsan and Mt. Paektu.

Dec North-South Trade Shows 'Highest' Increase

SK0102093895 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 1 Feb 95 p 2

[Report by Choe Won-ki]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned that North-South trade with government approval in December 1994 marked the highest volume in monthly transactions.

According to the National Unification Board [NUB] on 1 February, the result of government-approved trade between North and South Korea during this period amounted to $31.286 million for 48 items in 88 cases, and showed a 55.1 percent increase over the previous month and a 141 percent increase over the same period of the previous year.

The NUB analyzed that this increase was prompted by the fact that ROK business firms imported a greater amount of agricultural products, including peanuts, walnuts, and bracken, to meet the increased demand during the new year period. In addition, the domestic business firm that received the order from the U.S. side to transport the first shipment of 50,000 tonnes of heavy oil to North Korea to support alternative energy following the settlement of North Korean-U.S. nuclear negotiations, exported $4.5 million of commodities to North Korea.

Imports with government approval amounted to $23.148 million for 30 items in 64 cases, showing a 20.3 percent increase over the previous month and a 101.6 percent increase over the same month of the previous year.

Of all the government-approved imported items, agricultural products, such as peanuts, amounted to 52.2 percent; steel and metal products, including gold bars, amounted to 30.2 percent; textile products processed on a commission-basis amounted to 7.6 percent; herb medicines, including musk, amounted to 4.9 percent, and ore, including sand, amounted to 0.1 percent.

Exports with government approval amounted to $8.138 million for 18 items in 24 cases, showing a nine-fold increase over the previous month. This increase was reportedly prompted by the shipment of heavy oil and by the increase in exports of daily necessities to North Korea.

Nongovernmental N-S Contacts Peaked in 1991

SK0102061595 Seoul YONHAP in English 0604 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—The number of private-level contacts between South and North Koreans reached its peak in 1991, with the biggest realization rate registered by members of split families.

A report filed by the National Unification Board of personnel exchanges between South and North Korea Wednesday said that 266 cases or 38.8 percent of 685 approved applications for getting together with North Koreans came to fruition in 1991, representing the highest realization rate since 1989 when private inter-Korean contact was formally permitted.

The realization rate posted 30 percent in 1990, 38.8 percent in 1991, 31.9 percent in 1992, 27.2 percent in 1993, and 18.4 percent in 1994.

By category, the rate was highest for dispersed families with 32.7 percent during the period, when a total of 1,999 such applications were filed and all but 11 were approved. Of the approved applications, 650 cases involving 720 people bore fruits.

The realization rate in other categories was 27.65 percent for tourism and transportation, 23 percent for academy, 22.6 percent for religion, 22.04 percent for economy, 21.29 percent for press and publication, 18.6 percent for sports, and 14.2 percent for culture.

Private meetings of South and North Koreans from 1989 through 1994 totaled 1,111 cases involving a total of 3,958 persons.

North Plans To Use Soldiers for Najin-Sonbong

SK0102054495 Seoul YONHAP in English 0515 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—Some 100,000 North Korean soldiers will be discharged from service under a plan to recruit manpower needed for various development projects, particularly those in the Najin-Sonbong Free Economic and Trade Zone, from such disciplined orgnizations as the Army, a government official here said Wednesday.

The North Korean Government is pushing ahead with a plan to discharge some 100,000 men serving in military units in the rear, the official said.

The newly discharged servicemen are likely to be mobilized for development projects in Chongjin port and the Nampo industrial complex as well, the official predicted.

The North Korean authorities, he said, are seemingly determined to replace manpower at the Siberia-based logging camps with the ideologically well-trained soldiers in an effort to block defections by loggers to South Korea.

In addition, North Korea has completed resettling some 50,000 residents of the Najin-Sonbong area and started a civil engineering work expanding a 12-meter wide road between the Free Trade Zone and Hunchun in China, the official said.

Such moves are stemming from its plan to develop the free economic and trade zone and set up an international economic bloc comprising such neighboring nations as China and Russia as well, the official opined.

North Develops Updated Language Software Programs

SK0102115295 Seoul MUNHWA ILBO in Korean 1 Feb 95 p 14

[Report by Kim Kang-ho]

[FBIS Translated Text] Let the computer handle foreign languages.

While proceeding with its opening policy, North Korea has recently developed computer programs for foreign language education and translation in succession. This attracts the world's attention.

According to the recent report "Analysis of North Korea's Information Industry" released by Korea Computer Center, North Korea's information industry focuses on developing the software industry, rather than hardware. North Korea is also making intensive efforts to develop programs for practical use, such as programs for electronic publication and translation.

The Korea Computer Center report is published based on a travel report by UN University Professor Dains Borner [name as transliterated], who visited North Korea for about one week in May 1994, as well as related materials. Experts assess that this report provides comparatively detailed facts on North Korea's general information industry.

North Korea Data Combining Seminary of the Academy of Sciences developed translation software called "Haedoji." This program is designed for automatic translation of Japanese science and technology books into Korean. It involves some 50,000 words and can be used in personal computers, such as IBM PC, and particularly in PC/AT and Japan's NEC-developed PC9801-type personal computers.

In particular, "Mujigae [rainbow]," a software program with automatic character cognitive faculties, eliminates the inconvenience of inputting every Japanese character into the computer because it reads five characters per second and has an over 90 percent accuracy rate in reading characters.

Regarding this, North Korea says: "'Mujigae' is a computer translation system that helps everybody learn English even better than Japanese."

By using an electronic computer's large memory capability and its high-speed search capability, North Korea also developed "Pidulgi [pigeon]," a new-type software program designed for learning conversation, which automatically provides a user with conversational sentences. In this program, one can freely search Korean, English, and Japanese. People who travel in foreign countries, in particular, can conveniently use this program, which includes more than 1,000 sentences.

North Korea also has a software program that helps to write English letters. The Data Combining Seminary developed an editing program called "Business," which is designed to help a user write English letters, such as a business contract or proposal. A user of this program can draft a business document, as he or she likes, in a dialogue with the computer, in conformity with standard English composition guidelines and basic rules included in the computer.

The software program "Word Mate" is designed for students to learn Japanese words while enjoying a computer game. This is a so-called "edutainment" program including over 200,000 words and has various functions, such as word puzzles and an intensive word learning system.

At the same time, North Korea has taken deep interest in electronic publication.

The August 1992 issue of PYONGYANG INFORMATION CENTER BULLETIN carried an article entitled "Desktop Publication System Based on Mackintosh Computer," which reported the Pyongyang Program Center achieved great results in its research project to establish a Korean desktop publication system. In particular, in an international computer show held in Singapore in 1992, North Korea exhibited "Chongnyu," an electronic publication system, and "Multilanguage editor," a software program for editing multilanguage documents.

The multilanguage editor is aimed at the world market, and more than 10 languages, including Korean, English, Russian, German, and French, are available in this program. Introducing this software program, North Korea proudly says that this program is very convenient because it particularly has the WYSIWYG (What you see is what you get) function, which enables a user to print edited copy in exactly the same form the user sees on the monitor.

Assembly Takes Steps To Improve Ties With U.S.

SK0102053195 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 1 Feb 95 p 2

[By reporter Yi Sang-il]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 1 February, the National Assembly presented a basic direction for legislators' foreign activities in 1995, which is to strengthen foreign relations with the United States. The National Assembly decided to establish an "ROK-U.S. Legislators' Diplomatic Council" within this month at the earliest.

As a result of the U.S. Republicans' winning a majority in both the House and Senate, the National Assembly decided to expedite establishing the council to improve relations with the Republican Party and strengthen parliamentary-level diplomatic relations with the United States. The National Assembly will divide the council into two divisions: the first being foreign relations and security, and the second being trade, economy, and science. Some 40 ROK legislators well versed in U.S. affairs will be assigned to the council and have regular meetings with U.S. congressmen.

Foreign Minister's U.S., Japan Visits Previewed

SK0102010395 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0000 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Kong Nomyong is to visit the United States and Japan for nine days beginning 4 February. During his visit to the United States, the first country he is visiting, he will talk with U.S. Secretary of State Christopher. They are expected to reconfirm, once again, the consistent view of the two countries that inter-Korean dialogue is essential as a precondition to the U.S.-North Korean agreement.

Foreign Minister Kong No-myong will visit Japan for two days beginning 11 February and will hold talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Kono. He will convey our deep concern for the rehabilitation of quake-stricken Japan, and confirm the three-way cooperation among the ROK, the United States, and Japan regarding assistance in the installation of light-water reactors for North Korea.

Foreign Minister Kong No-myong will also meet with U.S. Secretary of Defense Perry during his visit to the United States. Also, through his contact with the leaders of the Republican-led U.S. Congress, he will have an in-depth exchange of views on matters such as ROK-U.S. security cooperation and the ROK-U.S. cooperative alliance for implementation of the U.S.-North Korean agreement.

The foreign minister will also meet with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to discuss our country's UN Security Council nonpermanent membership.

* Long-Term View Urged When Investing in SRV

952C0001D Seoul HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 13 Sep 94 p 8

[By reporter Kim Hyong-chol]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vietnam is rapidly emerging as a new region with good prospects for investment. This is because it has many attractive points, such as rich underground resources and a good labor force. With the removal of U.S. economic sanctions (February) in particular, Vietnam's "stock value" is soaring. With the end of the year, our interest in Vietnam is tremendous, inasmuch as it will be two years since the normalization of ROK-Vietnamese relations. We met with Chamber of Commerce Chairman Kim Sang-ha, reappointed chairman of the ROK-Vietnamese Economic Cooperation Committee, and heard his opinions on the relationship of economic cooperation.

[Interviewer] What change has there been since the lifting of the U.S. economic sanctions against Vietnam?

[Kim] Investment in Vietnam by U.S. companies is greatly increasing. During the first half of the year, U.S. investment reached about $142 million. In the second half of the year, advancement by U.S. companies into Vietnam is accelerating. The Vietnamese Government is aggressively attracting U.S. companies, for example, sending a delegation to the U.S. to solicit the participation of U.S. companies in 120 projects in seven fields, including power plants, roads, harbor, and communications facilities. Since the measure lifting economic sanctions, European and Japanese companies have been competing to enter Vietnam.

[Interviewer] What level has been reached by ROK-Vietnamese economic cooperation?

[Kim] Economic exchange between the two countries became very lively after diplomatic relations were established. Looking at the trade aspect, in 1991, the scale of trade was $240 million, but this rapidly increased 3.4 times last year to $810 million. During the first part of this year [alone], it increased to $580 million. Now, in the later half of this year, the extent of the growth is increasing further.

[Interviewer] Are there many companies that have succeeded with their investments in Vietnam?

[Kim] Spinning mills and plating factories are doing well. They are doing so well that the Vietnamese Government highly praises factories such as the one belonging to Chungnam Spinners [Chungnam Pangjok] and Pospinner [Posupina], a Pochol joint corporation located in Vietnam.

[Interviewer] [Vietnam] is said to be a promising market for investment, but there are bound to be bottlenecks.

[Kim] Of course there are. Licensing procedures for investment by foreigners are very complex. The same goes for import-export licensing procedures. To solve this problem, the Vietnamese Government, with the National Investment Cooperation Committee as the main axis, plans to enact a new foreigner-investment law within the year. When this happens, the investment-evaluation organizations in each province and special municipality will be disbanded, the windows will be unified in the central government, and the period required for licensing is expected to be reduced to about one-third of what it has been.

[Interviewer] What about [Vietnamese] sentiment toward the ROK due to its sending troops during the war, etc.?

[Kim] We businessmen also had been concerned about that point. However, we are surprised at the fact that, when we meet with Vietnamese Government officials or businessmen, no one brings up such problems. In some ways I get the feeling that, while being worthy of respect, the Vietnamese are a formidable people.

[Interviewer] Points to keep in mind concerning economic cooperation with Vietnam...?

[Kim] In the course of pursing an openness policy, Vietnam is experiencing difficulty in setting up its own investment plan due to a lack of development experience, and a shortage of management know-how and specialized human resources. Thus, we should present a concrete, mid-to-long-term project plan that suits Vietnam's liberalization policy. We businessmen have a tendency to ignore Vietnam's relational rules and pursue short-term profit. Sublating this, we must work to implant the perception of partnership in international cooperation rather than the pursuit of unilateral profit.

[Interviewer] What aspects of the trade call for government support?

[Kim] Japanese corporations, using ODA (Official Development Assistance) as a weapon, are aggressively advancing into the railroad, power-plant, petrochemical, steel, cement, fertilizer and other heavy and chemical industries. This means that the room for our companies to move in is becoming that much narrower. Therefore, the government also must provide active support, such as expanding the Foreign Economic Cooperation Fund (EDCF) support. The need for expansion of support for the fertilizer, cement, agricultural-chemical, and petrochemical fields is particularly urgent.

* Auto Industry's Overseas Royalty Income Increases

952C0001C Seoul HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 12 Sep 94 p 8

[By reporter Kim Chong-ho]

[FBIS Translated Text] The auto industry's royalty income, received by exporting technology overseas, is increasing. Contrarily, the percentage of its sales taken up by foreign royalty payments is greatly decreasing. As the export [of cars] assembled in the overseas factories (KD [kick-down] exports) of Hyundai Motors, Kia Motors, etc., grows, royalty income is gradually increasing due to parts being produced in Korea and the transfer of assembly technology. As it KD exported the Excel last year to Thailand and the UAS Corporation, Hyundai Motors received about $200 thousand in royalties, including an ordinary technical fee of $50 per vehicle and $80 thousand in advanced payment. Last July it began exporting technology needed for KD assembly to Egypt and Zimbabwe. It will soon begin transferring technology, for which it will receive royalties, needed for KD export to the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia as well. The same conditions as those for Thailand apply to the price of technology for Egypt and Zimbabwe. For the Philippines, Hyundai will receive $100 thousand in advanced payment and $60 per vehicle in ordinary technical fees; for Indonesia, $94,260 in advanced payment and $60 per vehicle. For Malaysia, which will send out 1.25-ton trucks, it will get a starter fee of $900 thousand and also an ordinary technical fee of $90 per vehicle. Kia Motors, which has been involved in KD exports since 1989, had already exported 150-thousand vehicles via KD by the end of last year, earning $6.5 million in royalties. From Taiwan, Kia Motors is presently receiving 15-thousand yen per vehicle in ordinary technical fees. From Venezuela it is getting $100 per vehicle and from the Philippines it is getting 2 percent (based on money amount) of nationalized portions [of the production process] in royalties. In addition, Daewoo Motors will be going into full-scale overseas production beginning in 1996 following the establishment of its joint-venture factory. Hyundai and Kia too plan to increase overseas production. Hence, it appears royalty income from the export of technology will continue to increase. Meanwhile, the percentage of the sales of domestic carmakers taken up by foreign royalty payments has continued to drop: from 0.86 percent in 1990 to 0.78 percent in 1991 to 0.72 percent in 1992 to 0.63 percent in 1993. This is understood to be the result of ROK companies' expanding their technological investments and lowering the extent of their dependence on foreign technology.

President Returns From Lunar New Year Holidays

SK0102105195 Seoul YONHAP in English 0953 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam returned to Seoul Wednesday afternoon after spending five-day lunar New Year's holidays at a provincial resort "Chongnam-dae."

During his stay at the presidential rest area, Kim was learned to have pondered upon pending state affairs including Feb. 7 national convention of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) and the local elections slated for June.

Sources at Chongwadae [presidential offices] said the president must have studied preparations for the former DLP Chairman Kim Chong-pil's bolting from the DLP to create a new party.

An official at the presidential office revealed that President Kim also mapped out a new line-up for the ruling party's leadership and major posts so that the DLP continues to push for its reformative drive and globalization scheme.

The official said President Kim must have completed overall personnel shakeup involving new DLP chairman, adding "we can see who will become the new chairman toward the end of this weekend."

The president was also known to have mapped out plans for the directions of the reformative drive as well as future course of inter-Korean relations.

No Sounded Out on Meeting With Kim Chong-pil

SK0102010995 Seoul YONHAP in English 0047 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—A close confidant of former Democratic Liberal Party Chairman Kim Chong-pil has sounded out former President No Tae-u about a meeting with Kim, but to no avail yet, informed sources said Wednesday.

Choe Kak-kyu, former deputy prime minister, sources said, visited No at his Yonhui-tong home Monday morning and proposed that No meet with Kim. In the meeting that lasted an hour, they said, Choe briefed the former president on Kim's plan to form a new political party.

No reportedly reacted coolly to the offer, saying, "It's not the (right) time to meet."

No's son, Chae-hon, meanwhile, visited the private residence of former Speaker Pak Chun-kyu, who is now chairing a committee for inaugurating a new party for Kim Chong-pil, Tuesday evening, political pundits said.

'Sources' on Kim Chong-pil News Conference Plan

SK0102020395 Seoul YONHAP in English 0137 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—Former Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) Chairman Kim Chong-pil will formally announce his secession from the ruling party for creation of a new party in a press conference slated for Feb. 9-10, sources said Tuesday.

Attending Kim's press conference will be former National Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu, who is poised to head the new party's preparatory committee, and conservative DLP lawmakers Ku Cha-chun, Cho Pu-yong, Yi Kyong-kyu, Kim Tong-kon and Chong Sok-mo.

A source close to Kim said the preparatory committee would start to work shortly, with a view to holding the new party's inaugural convention in late March.

The new party will opt for a cabinet system, instead of the nation's current presidential system, as government form and will have an executive council as the top policy-maker, as British and Canadian parties do, for group leadership, sources said.

The central party secretariat will be staffed by 20 to 30 people only and regional chapters will have a minimum number of staff in their offices. The inaugural funds will be raised from the people through donations, with a view to making the party needing as small political funds as possible.

Kim's followers are said to be pressing Kim to lead the party until the party has laid a footing for younger politicians to grow as leaders, thus conflicting with those calling for collective leadership.

In the coming local elections in June, the party will put up its own candidates in Taegu, Taejon, South Chungchong and North Kyongsang and will form a united front with other opposition parties in other areas, the source said.

Pak Chun-kyu said the new party would be for "United Liberal Democracy" where conservatives can be united with progressives into one. "It can join hands with Honam (apparently meaning the Democratic Party) and even with the Democratic Liberal Party," he added.

Another source close to Kim said, "The new party will not seek Kim's "political revenge" on President Kim Yong-sam, nor will it unconditionally criticize the president. It will be based on those national sentiment which the Democratic Liberal and Democratic Parties have failed to represent and present alternative policies on this basis."

* DLP Power Struggle Challenge to Kim Yong-sam

952C0047A Seoul HANGYORE 21 in Korean 17 Nov 94 pp 24-28

[By reporter Kwak Pyong-chan: "DLP Power Struggle Bursts Into Flame"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Medusa with three heads ... the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] is often compared to this tragic creature in Greek mythology. The three heads—the RDP, DJP, and NDRP [former Reunification Democratic, Democratic Justice, and New Democratic Republican parties] factions—on one body called the DLP are doomed to lead a cat-and-dog life mired in rough-and-tumble infighting. The RDP faction, seemingly a lightweight two years six months ago, succeeded in beating off the DJP faction, the heavyweight champion on the wane, and in taking over the body of the DLP. However, the DJP faction, tucking in its head turtle-like the past two years, now has begun showing its fangs at the RDP's who quickly reached their prime and are now confronted with the prospect of a downhill journey. The development took on a realistic tone with the recent 'No Chae-pong uproar.' Rep. No's parliamentary interpellation on political issues on 1 November dealt the first but very symbolic blow to the neck of the RDP faction.

Few see the uproar as a passing issue just focusing on North Korea policy or DLP policy line. Most people view it as a recurrence of the fatal scramble for hegemony dating back to the three-party merger but which has been dormant since the 1992 DLP vote for a presidential candidate. In the perception of these people, the only difference is that while it was a policy line dispute over a constitutional amendment for a cabinet system in the DLP under President No Tae-u, it is, in the present DLP under the Kim Yong-sam leadership, a wrangling over the party line relative to North Korea policy. But what they call the party line is but a cover and under the thin veneer always lies a dismal struggle for power. (Editor's Note)

DJP's Likely To Seize on Uproar, Challenge to Leadership

The No Chae-pong interpellation at issue drew attention for three reasons. First, it signaled an open resistance against the Kim Yong-sam policy line, which has not even reached its two-year mark. Second, it made a direct appeal to the public over personnel management, which is the exclusive authority of the president (who is also the president of the party). Third, it urged a realignment of political forces including the DLP. It meant, generally, the beginning of the lame-duck phenomenon which President Kim would hate to recognize and, within the DLP, the start of a power struggle over personnel management, namely, leadership in party management and management of the political situation. Finally, it meant that the DJP faction, still a majority in the party, has raised a threat to bolt the party, a tactic the RDP's had used so frequently.

In the interpellation, Rep. No Chae-pong remarked: "(The government) returned Yi In-mo to the North as a birthday present for Kim Il-song whose goal was to liquidate us. And on the debut of Kim Chong-il as the successor of the totalitarian dynasty, it presented him billions of dollars as a gift ... The president in his inaugural speech said that 'no ally could be more important than the nation,' suggesting he would seek to renounce the ROK-U.S. alliance. He also stressed that 'no doctrine or ideology can bring greater happiness than the nation,' doing away with ideology as the central issue in national reunification." The assemblyman thus raised an issue on the policy line. In other words, he accused the Kim Yong-sam government of pursuing a pro-North line. Granted that he is not, his line is a line of incompetence, he suggested.

His criticism was even more specific when he touched on DLP personnel management. "Being applauded by the opposition and the pro-North forces (for its North Korea policy that has lost its identity)...that precisely is the way the government of this country is today. In particular, the government party, which bears the responsibility for the state administration, is so unprincipled that it is creating confusion by embracing pro-North forces." The speaker said so as if it had been a passing reference, but the fact is that the biggest grievance to date on the part of the DJP faction, including No Chae-pong himself, has been against the personnel management led by the RDP faction. In view of the notion that party leadership and political initiative issues all boil down to personnel management after all, what No Chae-pong pointed out could be viewed as a key point of what he meant to say in his "interpellation with the government." As far as this point is concerned, DJP's have incessantly criticized the administration, overtly and covertly, reacting most sensitively to personnel affairs. And they always used ideology as a cover. Thus, they viewed Kim Chong-nam, senior presidential secretary for political affairs, and some other secretaries and administrators at Chongwadae, as well as the DLP's Son Hak-kyu, Kim Mun-su, Yi U-chae, Chong Tae-yun, Kim To-hyon and Song Chol-won, virtually as "Reds," and people like Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu and Rep. Kim Tok-yong as their slaves. They asserted that since the existence of these figures caused the policy line confusion and eventually the accommodation of the pro-North line, they should be sidelined or ousted. As for President Kim, it cannot but be a most serious defiance.

In conclusion, No Chae-pong, referring to the possibility of his breaking with the DLP and founding a new party, demanded corrective measures in the above two areas, namely, personnel management and policy line. He said: "The political world has reached a point where components are asked to separate illusionism from realism and clarify their identity accordingly. At a time when no parties can find their clear-cut identity over North Korea policy, how could we expect to ensure the security of our country?" The implication was a realignment of political forces into two camps, conservative and reformist. Considering the fact that his remarks were after all aimed at President Kim, what he referred to as the "political world" can be narrowed down to mean the DLP. In short, he was talking about a divorce of the two factions.

The No Chae-pong remarks that day were elaborately designed. First, in respect to their timing, October was the worst month for President Kim and his RDP faction. The U.S.-North Korea settlement was reached, after much confusion and turns and twists. There was the collapse of Songsu Great Bridge on 21 October. The Chungju-ho pleasure boat fire disaster occurred three days later. And the shooting spree incident by a soldier came on 31 October. The series of large-scale disasters since the start of the new government had sent skepticism over the governing capabilities of the Kim Yong-sam government to its peak. At a time like this, No Chae-pong openly charged that the Kim Yong-sam government, hand in hand with pro-North forces, is busy currying favor with North Korea bent on liquidating us.

Such remarks by No Chae-pong had been expected since September. And the bombshell became inevitable when Yi U-chae and Chong Tae-yun, former dissidents, were appointed chief organizers [of DLP district chapters] in a shake-up on 27 October. At the time, when Reps. An Mu-hyok and Kwak Chong-chul led a move to organize a team to officially protest the party leadership, No Chae-pong reportedly told them that he would speak on it in the National Assembly. An Mu-hyok and Kwak Chong-chul then made contact with 10 to 15 holdovers from the former ruling camp for a planned mutiny; eventually, it was decided that only the two would go and lodge the protest. And, according to reports, five or six others promised to show up and join them during their visit with party Chairman Kim Chong-pil on 28 October. All this suggests that No Chae-pong's parliamentary remarks were a well-organized act.

Needless to say, it was not the first time that he raised such issues. At the time when Kim Mun-su, a former labor activist of the dissident camp, was named to be chief organizer of the Sosa, Puchon district chapter, No Chae-pong and his group vehemently criticized President Kim's policy line, using such inflammatory words as "Reds." Earlier in September, An Mu-hyok and Kwak

Chong-chul protested that "the two persons [Yi U-chae and Chong Tae-yun], were key leaders of a party [the Masses Party] involved in cases of espionage and funding support by North Korea. They should apologize to the people and make amends for their offenses. Nevertheless, the party is going to embrace them. This is impermissible." Apparently, No Chae-pong's role was merely to play up this sentiment in a specific fashion by linking it to the Administration's North Korea policy.

Despite the explosive nature of the remarks, the ruling RDP faction merely labeled them as a "quixotic conception" and did nothing beyond that. At one point, there were some vigorous arguments in the faction such as that he should be expelled or voluntarily leave the party; however, RDP's, who are experts in the field of power struggles, concluded that there was no need to throw good money after bad. In fact, under the circumstances there was nothing for them to gain by being drawn into a policy-line debate or controversy over whether the administration is competent or incompetent.

The RDP faction took the offensive by No Chae-pong and his group in this context: It could be an effort to pave their way leading to the move of the former ruling camp for a new party allegedly based on conservatism, or an attempt to seize control of the ruling camp through DLP infighting.

First of all, the fact that quite a few members who have become certain to be denied party nomination in the next general election is a real enough reason for forming a new party. It is an effective way to make a dignified exit, find reasons to form a new party, and to secure a conservative support base. Incumbent DJP assemblymen currently considered belonging to this category are 15 to 16 or more, including ex-Hanahoe members, persons involved in the 12 December, 1979, incident and key leaders of the Sixth Republic. In addition, the boasting by RDP's in their first days in power that close to 50% of incumbent DLP assemblymen would be denied party endorsements in the next general election has proved to be a major factor in the new-party move. Especially, the breakaway phenomenon, which has escalated to a point where some even say they find their DLP membership rather burdensome, is fueling the possibility of a new party. DJP incumbents from constituencies of Taegu and North Kyongsang Province have long been calculating their choices. In an extreme case, for instance, Kwak Chong-chul, who inherited President Kim's constituency, stood in the van of the policy-line dispute. In other words, "even Pusan turned its back" on the president.

However, the RDP faction sees their persistent allusions to possible links with the new-party movement as a blackmail and as realistically insignificant. In fact, those close to No Chae-pong and other DJP's strongly reject the possibility of their breaking with the DLP or founding a new party. It shows, to some degrees, their defiant self-assertion that "it is we, not they, who are the mainstay of the DLP" but, more significantly, the common feeling among them that "few would walk out voluntarily before being ousted."

So, the RDP faction is wary of their second possibility. The DJP faction could use the party-line dispute to boost its unity as a rival faction of the ruling RDP's and gain control of the DLP while preserving its share of power and privileges in the party. Their calculation is to seize the political initiative through a make-or-break struggle over the party line linked to a new party as the last resort and by beating the RDP faction to it. The 1992 experience of the RDP faction whose 20 assemblymen took control of the DLP by a similar tactic based on a threat of secession now stands as a good model for DJP's. In this connection, an assemblyman said that "quitting the party is unthinkable. We will fight in the party until our demand is met."

Meanwhile, 85 DLP district chapters have changed their chairmen since the 1992 presidential election. Considering the 11 district chapters plagued by mishaps, plus the constituencies of five incumbent assemblymen newly embraced by the DLP in August, nearly 100 district chapter chairmen will be changed or replaced. Needless to say, taking into account natural replacements involving those quitting the party or resigning their seats in the National Assembly, the total number will come down to a little over 70. However, most of the replacements are those "appointed by President Kim" and therefore inevitably belong to the RDP faction. Of the party-endorsed candidates in the 14th general election, 152 were district chairmen of the DJP faction; the number has gone down to 103 now. In case those assemblymen embraced in August take over their district chapters, the DJP faction numbers will be reduced to less than 100 while the RDP faction, which started out with 57 in 1992, will be increased to well over 100. In two years, since President Kim took over the DLP leadership, the DJP faction has lost one third of their district chairmanships. Under the circumstances, none of them are optimistic about their future. They might need to go for a big gamble to reverse the flow in the party and cabinet reshuffles anticipated for the year-end and with endorsements for candidates to run in the local elections, the outlines of which are expected to be known in about February next year.

For that issue, Rep. No Chae-pong stated at the hearing that "under this situation, we are forced to choose either war, surrender, or launch offensive defenses." However, they seem to be wavering with their choice between the two—offensive defense or war. At the time of the April, 1990, Great Rebellion, the first scramble for party hegemony after the three-party merger, Kim Yong-sam, then DLP cochairman, chose "war."

RDP's Still Uneasy

The power maps of a ruling party in its first and middle phases in which the president sticks to his iron-fisted rule have no special meaning. It is because whoever opposes or is likely to challenge his authority would inevitably be destroyed one way or another. In the case of the DJP faction, that was the situation with it at least through the first half of this year, a period representing the first phase of the RDP rule.

In the middle phase, however, the Kim Yong-sam regime is suffering from leaks of power that have reached levels surpassing all expectations. Because of the successive large-scale disasters, the administration's policy confusion, the local elections scheduled for mid-1995, and the still-unstable strength of loyal members in the DLP, the regime is confronted with the phenomena of power leakage, earlier than the No Tae-u regime did—President No faced the same crisis when the DJP fell to a minority in the National Assembly. Under the circumstances, the ruling party's intraparty power map cannot but assume a serious meaning.

Up to 27 September [1994], since the taking of the ruling party's power by the RDP faction, 85 district chapter chairmen were replaced and further changes are expected to result in altogether, 101 new district chapter chairmen. This means that chairmen of 43% of the 237 district chapters are going to be replaced in the first reshuffle in two-odd years. But the RDP faction has a long way to go before stabilizing its numerical strength. Recalling its own experience at the time of the 1992 scramble for the party leadership, in which its 57 assemblymen defeated the 152 of the DJP faction, the RDP faction is still extremely uneasy. The reason: even if all the new district chairmen should be brought into the RDP faction, it would be slightly over 120, barely over a majority. Currently, the number of district chairmen viewed as pure DJP or NDRP faction members is as many as 115.

Especially, the seriousness of the situation becomes more evident when the focus is put on incumbent assemblymen. Immediately after the 14th general election, the RDP assemblymen numbered 25, including those from the national constituency, against the DJP's 114 and the NDRP's nine. After turns and twists since then from secessions, expulsions and by-elections, the numbers have changed to 31 (RDP), 97 (DJP) and 10 (NDRP), but those changes carry little meaning. Even if all incumbent assemblymen, including those who joined the DLP in the period from immediately before the presidential election to date and those elected in by-elections (altogether 39 assemblymen) are all counted as RDP's, the total RDP strength in the National Assembly stands at slightly over 70. This number, however, includes Reps. Kim Sang-ku, Yi Sang-chae and Kim Kil-hong, considered belonging to the factions of former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u, as well as Reps. Chong Ho-yong and Ho Hwa-pyong, branded as rebels for their involvement in the 12 December, 1979, incident. So, the Kim Yong-sam loyalists number approximately 60.

The RDP faction had Kim Yong-sam as its great leader in 1992. That was why the 25 assemblymen could display strength five or six times that number. It was certain that the DLP would fall to a minority party in case they bolted. This doubled their destructive power. Today, however, the RDP faction holds a line slightly over a majority in the number of district chairmen; in the number of incumbent assemblymen, it stands only at 60% of the DJP and NDRP factions combined. The DJP and NDRP factions can throw the RDP faction down to a third party level.

All these factors would undoubtedly be not necessarily applicable to realities. The DJP faction itself lacks an eminent leader; in addition, it has been divided into various groups since the 1992 competition for presidential candidate. In the DJP faction today, there is a group challenging the Kim Yong-sam line and a group of critical fence-sitters and a group of pro-Kim Yong-sam fence-sitters. In comparison with what it was in 1992, the notable characteristics are that many of those who belonged to the group directly under President No Tae-u and were fence-sitters then have become anti-Kim Yong-sam since then, while the new RDP group—assemblymen from Taegu and North Kyongsang Province who decisively contributed to the nomination of Kim Yong-sam as DLP presidential candidate—backed down and now form a group of critical fence-sitters. Further, those who were then fence-sitters or joined the anti-Kim Yong-sam camp are now either his positive supporters, or fence-sitters at least. The developments, noteworthy as they are, can be seen as vividly reflecting the disappointment and antipathy of groups that once perceived the present regime as a coalition of the Taegu-North Kyongsang forces and the Pusan-South Kyongsang forces.

* Nation Urged To Help Restore Military Honor

952C0041B Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 12 Nov 94 p 5

[Article by Yi Chae-kun, director of the SEOUL SINMUN Unification and Security Research Center: "The Military Is in Its 'Place'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Asked if they sometimes feel an inferiority complex as military personnel, 48% of officers, 67% of noncommissioned officers and 64% of soldiers said they do. And 88% of officers and 71% of soldiers take pride in the military service, always or at times. Of soldiers, the higher the educational level, the fewer become those who take pride. Of those below high school graduates, it is 77%; high school graduates, 75%; college students and dropouts, 68%; and college graduates and higher, 41%. These are findings of a poll conducted by a sociologist. Although a few years old, they indicate that the morale of officers and men of our armed forces based on the draft system is at adequate levels. Whatever might be said about them, our military forces always stand in their "place" fulfilling their duties of defense and security.

Early last week, on the evening of the day a random firing on a rifle range by a soldier was reported, I received a phone call from my youngest son, also a soldier assigned to a firing range of another unit close to the one where the incident occurred. Still in the shock from reports of the incident, I impatiently asked him how he was doing. "There is nothing unusual here," said he, as if nothing had happened. With that, I again thought there was no cause for alarm. The successive incidents involving military personnel, big and small, are a matter of grave concern indeed, but our faith in our armed forces is not shaken.

It is true that the public has been feeling miserable at the shocking incidents and accidents reported one after another, worrying how the military discipline has come to this low or what has turned the military into such a seemingly disorderly organization. If the mishaps were by any chance due to slack discipline from an easy-going attitude bred in the process of military reforms and the "be straight" drive in the past 12-odd months, it cannot but be another grave issue. So, they upbraided those responsible in the military and deplored the general qualities of officers and noncommissioned officers. They also pointed out the problem of the so-called new-generation soldiers ill-bred and unable to adapt themselves to military life, calling for a cool-headed diagnosis and prescription by military authorities. They even did some soul-searching themselves, with pangs of conscience, on all sorts of distorted events in nonmilitary society that inevitably would affect the military discipline and troop morale.

There were the serial murders by the so-called Chijonpa gang, the On Po-hyon crime spree, the tax embezzlement scandals and the revenge killing of a court witness. Then came the collapse of Songsu Great Bridge and the fire on a sightseeing pleasure boat. All these horrible incidents and accidents must have cast their dark shadows on military society, with their crude, evil influence. The soldier who committed the aforementioned violence was allowed out a few days earlier but, for reasons involving his family, "couldn't even have a meal at home" before returning to the barracks disgruntled. This is not to say that the crime he committed is excusable. The point is that people need to take note of the fact that nonmilitary society was also plagued by incidents and accidents at the time.

All draftees but career personnel came of age before their induction. Each represents a personality. In that sense, each individual soldier is a reflection of outside society. Most of them perceive military life for the draft period as an extension of their family or social life. This means that, although the military organization can control them, it cannot "remold" them. At the death in the same incident of a fellow officer who was the hope of many around him, an officer said that "I now realize why he used to compare soldiers who are less than a year into military service to the 'rugby ball' which bounds in an unpredictable direction." His word is an accurate description as far as new-generation personnel and their misbehavior are concerned.

If the military is perceived as a subordinate system existing within society, military society is inevitably linked with nonmilitary society, which is its background or environment. Therefore, if general society as a conception of higher-ranking society is sound and full of life, the military as its subordinate society will also maintain its morale and discipline firmly, as an inevitable result. One thing certain is that even in their barracks life, the draftees are still tied to the influence of nonmilitary society. While physically in military society, they have their hearts in nonmilitary society. It is a reality, although not desirable. Herein lies the source of their subconsciousness of the so-called taming of officers. If this fact is grasped, the reverse, namely the taming of soldiers by officers, is not a difficult thing.

A retired general officer, speaking of his experience, said: "When a soldier with grievances in military life steals a hand grenade from an armory and is about to throw it into the barracks, and if he happens to think of his parents at the moment, he would go ahead and commit the crime. But, if it is the face of the platoon or company leader that he thinks of, he cannot throw the hand grenade." The lesson intended could be that commanding officers should share "kinship" with their men. The command and control manual states: "Command like a father does, control like a mother does." The teaching is that while commanding from above can be done by lawful authority, overall control should be based on human consideration.

So much for the upbraiding and lashing of the military for the recent incidents and accidents. From now on, we should discuss ways and means to strengthen the military through the restructuring of relationship between society and the armed services—the public and the military—along with efforts to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of the military organization and system. Competitiveness of the military as the bulwark of defense and security basically depends on how spontaneous the system of cooperation between the people and the military is, which in turn hinges on trust between them. In my view, to improve the relationship between the people and the military is the most effective way to raise the morale of our armed forces.'

Burma

Sein Win Criticizes SLORC Attacks on KNU

BK0102065295 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Feb 95 p 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dr Sein Win, exiled prime minister of the parallel Burmese government, on Monday condemned from Washington the attack on Manerplaw, headquarters of the KNU [Karen National Union] and the Burmese democracy movement.

Expressing outrage at the "unprovoked" attack, he said: "By attacking Manerplaw, SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] has shown it was deliberately misleading the international community. This is the beginning of real problems for SLORC."

Sein Win is the cousin of Mrs Aung San Suu Kyi and prime minister of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma which was formed in late 1990 at the Karen headquarters.

He was elected to Parliament in the May elections the same year, and later fled to the border with other MPs of the National League for Democracy after the SLORC negated the election results.

Expressing confidence in the indigenous Karen people Sein Win said: "They have been fighting injustice for the last 45 years and will continue until democracy has been restored in Burma although we have lost Manerplaw."

Sein Win also voiced frustration over the lack of international action against the Burmese junta. "We have repeatedly told the world community that SLORC is not in any way sincere about national reconciliation, peace and democracy," he said.

"It is only interested in clinging on to power. Various governments have tried 'constructive engagement', 'benchmark', and 'critical dialogue' to persuade SLORC to change."

He also called on the Thai government to give asylum to refugees fleeing the current fighting. "It will not be in Thailand's favour to turn back the refugees. When democracy is restored in Burma, we will remember who our friends are," he said.

On Sunday, Burmese democracy activists in Japan rallied in Nara for a "fax-in demonstration" to protest the attack on Manerplaw and to urge Thai acceptance of Burmese refugees and asylum seekers.

Members and supporters of the Burmese Relief Centre in Japan sent urgent messages by fax and e-mail to world leaders, government representatives and influential newspapers, calling for condemnation of the SLORC takeover.

Participants also called upon Japan to re-examine its recent decision to resume official development assistance to the Burmese dictatorship which pushes at least half the money it receives directly into the military.

Embassy Denies Military Seizure of Manerplaw

BK0102025495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0606 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok, Jan 31 (AFP)—Burmese officials say that dissident Karen forces rather than Rangoon government troops have seized the Karen headquarters at Manerplaw.

In a fax received here, the Burmese Embassy in Jakarta said last week's "blitz attack" on Manerplaw was possible only by forces already within the town's defense perimeter.

"No government troops were involved in the attack. Only logistic support was given to the DKBO (Democratic Karen Buddhist Organization)," the embassy statement said.

It said the dissidents numbered "over 3,000 armed personnel, and not 400 as reported by the media."

The statement said the "so-called remaining KNU (Karen National Union) base at Kawmoora is only a one-square-mile jungle area" jutting into the territory of neighboring Thailand.

The KNU, which has been fighting to set up an independent state since 1948, has said Burmese troops captured its longtime stronghold of Manerplaw.

A KNU statement last week said the Burmese military had begun attacking the town late last year and recently moved four army divisions into the fray.

Maung Aye, Khin Nyunt Visit Karen State

BK0102055495 Rangoon TV Myanmar Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] General Maung Aye, who is the deputy chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], deputy commander in chief of the Defense Services, and commander in chief of the Army, accompanied by Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the SLORC; Vice Admiral Than Nyunt, minister of health; Lt Gen. Thein Win, minister of transport; Lt. Gen. Min Thein, quarter master general; senior military officials and responsible officials, left Yangon [Rangoon] in helicopters on 30 January and arrived in Pa-an, Karen State, at 0830. [passage omitted on visits to a jetty, site of bridge construction across Salween River, and local monastery]

Deputy SLORC Chairman Gen. Maung Aye and Secretary-1 Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt met with members of district and township law and order restoration councils, departmental personnel, and local elders in Zwekabin Hall in Pa-an and delivered speeches.

First, Deputy SLORC Chairman Gen. Maung Aye spoke, saying the SLORC is endeavoring for the all-around development of the country during its term of office and that while it is necessary to have peace in the country to work for national development, it is essential that the state [Karen State] be free from insurgent and subversive activities in order to work for development.

The government had invited armed organizations in the jungles to return to the legal fold in order to accelerate development work in states and border regions. So far, he said a total of 13 organizations had returned to the legal fold. He said the people in the regions where peace has been established are beginning to enjoy benefits from all-around development. He said the KIO [Kachin Independence Organization] had returned to the legal fold in the Kachin State and the region is becoming stable and peaceful and the Kachin State is beginning to develop due to cooperation with the government.

He said the successful holding of the grand Students Sports Festival in the Kachin State and construction of a bridge across the Irrawaddy River in Myikyina are indeed the fruits of peace. He said the SLORC is endeavoring to bring about uniform development in all states. He said a bridge across the Salween River currently is being built in the Karen State and plans are underway to start the service of a triple decker ship ordered from the People's Republic of China in the Karen State from Union Day [12 February].

He said the government had formed the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in order to effectively carry out projects for the development of border regions and national races. He said a good transportation and communications system is crucial for development of the nation, the states, and divisions. He said the government is implementing the union highway system to improve transportation. It is necessary to have local stability and peace in order to fully carry out these projects.

He urged the departmental personnel and local people to work jointly with the Defense Services in striving to ensure the Karen State is absolutely free from insurgency and becomes a prosperous, peaceful, and developed state.

Next, Secretary-1 Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt delivered a speech. He said the rays of peace will soon shine over the Karen State and the people in the state will be able to fully enjoy the outcome of peace. He said various kinds of internal insurgency developed in the country since independence due to political, racial, and ideological differences. Although the country had achieved independence over 40 years ago, the country lagged behind in development compared to other countries because of insurgency. The Karen State had experienced insurgency for over 40 years and it lags behind in development compared to other states and the rural people are still suffering up to today from all kinds of hardship as a result of insurgency.

He said it is the conviction of the SLORC to strive to develop the country into a peaceful and developed nation during its term of office. In accordance with this conviction, development projects aimed at the development of border regions and national races are being implemented and armed organizations in the jungle were invited to join the government in development endeavors. He said that so far 13 organizations, which had come to understand the genuine goodwill of the government, had returned to the legal fold.

Lt. Gen. Khin Nyun recalled that he and his entourage composed of ministers visited Pa-an during November 1993 and invited the armed organizations in the jungles in the Karen State to hold talks with the government and to return to the legal fold to jointly work in the interests of the Karen State and the nation. The government extended the invitation with sincerity for the sake of peace and not because the government had any difficulty in political, military, and economic affairs. The invitation was made with the sincere desire for national unity and cooperation in order to upgrade the life of the national races who had lagged behind in development because of insurgency and lack of unity.

He said although the Defense Services had unilaterally ceased all its military operations [since April 1992], the KNU [Karen National Union] took advantage of the suspension of offensives and caused clashes to take place. The KNU leader, Bo Mya, did not want to accept the government's peace offer. He based his KNU headquarters near the common border between the countries [Burma and Thailand] and whenever he faced difficulties caused by military offensives, he fled to the other side and returned when the situation turned favorable.

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt said KNU's Bo Mya and other leaders, who have set up business establishments near the border, relish their luxurious lives and have no desire to give up their leadership positions. They gave various excuses for not holding peace talks and resorted to various means to avoid peace. Furthermore, they use the support given to them to deceive the government and to try to take political advantage.

Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt said the ongoing armed conflict in the Karen State had reduced the size of big villages while some villages laid in total destruction. Some villagers have to stay hidden while some have to flee to the fringes of towns to survive. The majority who depend on farming have had to give up their farmlands and are facing all kinds of hardship. The young and middle age KNU rank and file have become aware that the indigenous people have become the victims in the armed conflict and local development lags behind. The young and middle age KNU rank and file wanted peace and they gradually realized that the KNU leadership circles do not desire peace as they benefit from the armed insurgency. Despite their claim to be working for the welfare of the Karen people, the Karen people did not get to enjoy the fruits of independence because of the incompetent KNU leadership. The Karen people had only experienced suffering. Many had been killed and wounded during the battles.

Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt pointed to discrimination in appointments and the application of the reward and punishment system, incompetent leadership, enjoyment of luxuries by the leadership, neglect of the rank and file, and ban on freedom of worship as factors responsible for growing dissatisfaction and opposition among the rank and file. Those who were dissatisfied gradually organized among themselves. Although there is freedom of worship in Myanmar [Burma], there is no freedom of worship inside the KNU and the Buddhists were always oppressed.

Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt further explained that in 1994 the KNU leaders banned the Myainggyingu Tawya Sayadaw [Abbot] U Thuwana from doing missionary work and this led to dissatisfaction among the rank and file and eventually to mutiny and clashes among KNU members. In the final events, a DKBA unit [Democratic Karen Buddhist Army] which left the KNU, attacked and captured the KNU headquarters in Manerplaw. This was a case of dissatisfaction which had been simmering for years leading to an explosion with the final attack and capture of KNU headquarters in Manerplaw.

The DKBA, which split from the KNU, believed that there was no peace in the Karen State because of armed conflict and they wished to end the suffering of the people. Therefore, they asked for assistance from the Defense Services to drive out those who do not desire peace from the territory. The Defense Services, in the interests of peace and prosperity of the Karen State and security of life for the people, gave necessary support and assistance [lo-att- te pan bo hmy mya, ku nyi hmu mya] to the DKBA.

Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt said that the SLORC, while upholding the three cardinal causes [nondisintegration of the Union, nondisintegration of national races, and perpetuation of national sovereignty], is striving to uplift the living standard of the indigenous people and development of the states. He said we gave necessary support to the DKBA since we are of the view that the policy and conviction of the DKBA are in accordance with our policy and conviction. The KNU leaders have now fled from the Manerplaw camp and the rays of peace are shining over the Karen State.

He said it will be necessary for departmental personnel and all the local people to continue to make joint efforts to establish peace in the entire state. When peace prevails in the state, work can be accelerated to improve transportation, agriculture, extraction of resources, and exploration and production of hydroelectric power. He urged all the indigenous people to uphold the three cardinal causes and to join hands with the Defense Services under the leadership of the government to work for peace and prosperity and the development of their state.

Next, Gen. Maung Aye and Lt. Khin Nyunt warmly greeted those who attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

Gen. Maung Aye and his entourage returned to Yangon in the afternoon.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Trade Privileges Under GSP To End 1997

BK3101142495 Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 30 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Baharom Mahusin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brussels 29 Jan—Malaysia's trade privileges under European Union's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) will be fully lifted in December 1997.

Following the revocation of the privileges, all exports from Malaysia to Europe will not be given tax exemption or lower import duties as they have in the past.

From 1 January 1995 to 1997, Malaysia's trade privileges under the GSP will be withdrawn gradually.

The Perusahaan Otomobil Malaysia Berhad (PROTON) [Malaysian Automobiles Industry Limited], which began exporting its cars to Europe last week, will be the first Malaysian company to be directly affected by the GSP withdrawal.

The exports of Proton cars to Europe have become something "sensitive" because several European countries like Britain, Germany, and France are also car manufacturers.

The company that imports Proton cars, Inchcape International, has to pay a 7-percent import duty under the GSP's new tariff rates. However, after the revocation of the GSP facility, Inchcape will have to pay a 10-percent import tax.

The lifting of the trade privileges for Malaysian exports will have a direct impact on its productivity and competitiveness. The Proton car exports will be directly affected, too.

Datuk Renji Sathiah, head of Malaysia's mission to the European Union, said here: "Malaysia is no longer considered a country that requires GSP facility for its development tool. This is the idea behind the revocation of the trade privileges."

The lifting of the GSP facility covers all categories of commodities from the export sector for wood and rubber products, plastics, textiles, and several items of electronic appliances. Since 1 January, Malaysia's trade privileges for such exports were totally revoked.

At the ASEAN-EU ministerial meeting in Karlsruhe, Germany in September last year, the ASEAN and European officials had a wide range of differences of opinion concerning the issue on the lifting of the GSP facility. [passage omitted]

Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, minister of international trade and industry, told journalists in Brussels that the only way out for Malaysia to cope with the GSP issue is to urge its exporters to be more competitive.

Sathiah also said that the revocation of the privileges under the GSP facility for the Proton cars exports is "very drastic."

Editorial on Opposition Parties' Loose Alliance

BK3101142295 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 30 Jan 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Opposition Parties' Effort To Maintain Good Relations With Members"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last week, Lim Kit Siang, secretary general of the opposition DAP [Democratic Action Party] announced its withdrawal from the Gagasan Rakyat [People's Might]—an alliance of opposition parties, comprised of the Semangat 46 (S46) [the Spirit of 1946] and the Parti Rakyat Malaysia (PRM) [Malaysian People's Party] as members. The DAP's reason for withdrawing is to prepare for the upcoming general election. Lim Kit Siang has also denied having any relations and cooperation with the PAS [Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party]. Many suspected that the DAP's decision to leave the Gagasan Rakyat was a reaction to the announcement by Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, president of the S46, that his party, PRM, and DAP will use the individual party's manifesto and symbol in the upcoming general election. Two days after Lim Kit Siang's announcement, Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, leader of the PAS Missionary Council, admitted the formation of the APU [Islamic Solidarity Front], which governs Kelantan now. He said that the APU is a loose alliance, adding that although the APU is made up of the PAS, the S46, the Berjasa (Malaysian Islamic Front) and the Hamim (Islamic Party of Malaysia), they are free to form their individual party's objective for struggle. On the collaboration between DAP and PAS in the Gagasan Rakyat, Lim Kit Siang firmly refuted his party's relations with the PAS.

Based on the latest development, many assumptions can be made about the alliance of opposition parties, which is now becoming more fragile. Although the leaders of APU and the Gagasan Rakyat have claimed that the so-called moves taken by them are strategic measures for confronting the Barisan Nasional (BN) in the general election, the opposition parties are apparently beginning to panic and are losing their strength to face challenges. They are disorganized, and all actions are taken in a hasty manner. The split among the component parties of the two alliances pioneered by the S46 is getting more confusing. This is due to the differences in the principles of the member parties. They are divided even before the second round of general election. This is not surprising, because the formation of the alliance of opposition parties is not based on any strong foundation due to the fact that every party is protecting its own interest. Furthermore, the alliance was formed a few days before the general election in 1990, just for the sake of drawing public sympathy and winning votes.

In reality, the DAP is aware that if it continues to cooperate with the Malays through the S46, it will have very little chance of winning more seats in the coming general election. In fact, it might even lose all the seats that it now holds. Surely the Chinese community will ask what the difference is between DAP's merger with the S46 in the Gagasan Rakyat and the MCA [Malaysian Chinese Association] merger with UMNO [United Malays National Organization] in the BN [Barisan Nasional], if the DAP truly wants to struggle for the fate of the Chinese only. Thus for fear that the struggle of a racist party would be ineffective, Lim Kit Siang was forced to make an open confession to the Chinese community that he can no longer team up with the S46, whose majority is made up of Malays. Likewise, the agenda of the S46 and the PAS is to struggle for the Malay community. The S46 leadership is losing support now even though the remaining members of the party are still holding on to the principle of struggling for the Malays' interest.

Similar to the DAP, the S46 members are not at ease mixing cordially with the Chinese because the S46's main objective is to take over power from UMNO and form a Malay government. The S46 is also not ready to maintain good relations with the PAS members because the latter are considered extremists. We feel that there is no more place for the S46 in Malaysian politics, just the way the Malays rejected the Parti Negara [National Party] in the past. Further more, many S46 leaders and members were former members of UMNO. Perhaps, their way of life is not the same as that of PAS members. They are still used to the UMNO's political culture in their way of thinking, spiritual values, and political ideology. Therefore, it is very difficult for the S46 members to orientate themselves to become an opposition party, especially to cooperate with the Chinese to attack the Malays.

As for the PAS, which so far had been claiming to be struggling for the Islamic religion, will certainly find it difficult to get the support of non-Muslims due to its involved with the DAP through the APU. Due to this, there is no other means for Nik Aziz to attract the attention of his followers except to make a confession the way Lim Kit Siang did. Obviously the confession made by Lim Kit Siang, Nik Aziz and Tengku Razaleigh was merely trying to appease their respective supporters.

Cambodia

Arrests Reported in Killing of U.S. Tourist

BK0102100295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0938 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Phnom Penh, Feb 1 (AFP)—Ten men have been brought to court in connection with the killing of an American tourist and her Cambodian tour guide in Cambodia's northwestern Siem Reap province, a senior official said Wednesday.

Under-Secretary of State for Information Ung Teaseam said the 10 men were brought to court January 28 and were currently in detention.

There have been conflicting reports about the identities of the killers of US tourist Susan Hadden and tour guide Vun Thi, who were gunned down last month in an ambush.

Some government officials have said the gunmen might have been affiliated with the outlawed Khmer Rouge, and others claiming they were simply bandits.

The Khmer Rouge's clandestine radio recently claimed responsibility for the attack, which also left Hadden's husband William James injured, and added its guerrillas were rewarded with some 4,000 US dollars and 20 water buffalo.

The attack took place January 15 as the American couple were travelling about 20 kilometers north (12 miles) of Siem Reap provincial town on their way to visit the stunning historic Banteay Srei temple.

The Khmer Rouge radio broadcast, which contained inaccuracies about the details of the attack, claimed the American couple were "military experts" and that the guerrillas responsible for the attack were still at large.

Ung Teaseam quoted Siem Reap Deputy Governor Hem Bun-Heng as saying the killers were like a "kind of bandits," but added he had no further details on their identities.

He dismissed the rebel radio broadcast as "aiming to make trouble for tourists and to discourage investors to come to invest in order to make difficulties for the royal government."

A US embassy official also dismissed the report that the attack was carried out by active Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

"There is no evidence that they were current Khmer Rouge acting to disrupt the government and to kill US military spies," he said.

The embassy official, however, said he had received information from provincial authorities that two of the group were former Khmer Rouge.

"The two were apparently the leaders of the band and the triggermen themselves," he said.

Radio Views U.S. Stance on Providing Weapons

BK0102023395 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 31 Jan 95

[Political commentary: "Another Ray of Hope for Us"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 29 January, before he left Phnom Penh, Strobe Talbott, U.S. deputy secretary of state, told reporters that the United States will consider providing weapons to Cambodia if the Khmer Royal Armed Forces [KRAF] continue to carry out current reforms. Strobe Talbott said the prospect of arms aid to the KRAF was not objected to by His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk on whom the delegation called on 29 January. Talbott further said that the Cambodian king and the U.S. delegation agreed on the extent and the types of U.S. aid to the KRAF. At the same time, Winston Lord, U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asia and the Pacific, who was accompanied by Talbott during the three-day visit, also noted some reforms that have already been carried out within the KRAF.

The above statement by the U.S. deputy secretary of state is a source of vigorous encouragement for the Royal Government whose desire is to strengthen the KRAF's capability to defend the motherland and maintain security, discipline, and public order. The Royal Government is a legitimate administration born from free and general elections. The signatories of the Paris peace agreement, including the United States, have to provide assistance in all sectors.

In the words of the prince krompreah [First Prime Minister Ranariddh], the Royal Government wants to request that the United States provide material for building military posts and military training material. This shows that the Royal Government does not have the ambition of receiving foreign military aid to fuel the war in the country or to set a military priority against any neighboring country. This is in accordance with the fifth paragraph, Article 53, Chapter 4 of the Kingdom of Cambodia's Constitution, which stipulates that the Kingdom of Cambodia reserves the right to receive foreign aid in the form of military materiel, weapons, ammunition, training of the Armed Forces, and other assistance to defend itself and ensure order and security throughout the country.

The announcement on providing weapons to Cambodia by the United States is made at a time when the Khmer Rouge are intensifying terrorist activities in people's villages in rural areas despite the king's appeal to them to lay down arms, stop bandit activities, and return to society and the nation.

The present affirmation of the U.S. stance coincides with the assessment by international observers according to which the Khmer Rouge have so far not softened their rigid stance nor changed the strategy of winning power through weapons. Therefore, to prevent the genocidal regime from returning, to defend and maintain the Royal Government and the Constitution—on whom the international community has spent over 2,000 million dollars and a unique contribution of the Cambodian people—the KRAF have to be equipped with appropriate military gear and undergo strict training.

The Royal Government does need military aid from friendly countries, including aid from the United States, to achieve this goal. It should be recalled that the Australian Government recently decided to double its military aid to the Royal Government.

Although Talbott and His Majesty the King agreed that the biggest hope of finishing off the Khmer Rouge lays on a prosperous and stable Cambodia through a vigorous economic and political reform program, national economic development requires security and safety. We cannot build and develop a country quickly if the Khmer Rouge continue to harass, burn, and destroy with mines. Therefore, the expansion of the KRAF in every field is an indispensable factor.

Khmer Rouge Say Phnom Penh 'Cheating' U.S.

BK0102010495 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States recently announced that 50,000 packets of food ration will be given to assist the Cambodian people, including rice and canned meat.

Regarding this aid, the people and masses in Phnom Penh scoffed that the long-nosed guys possess computers, but do not realize that the two-headed traitors are cheating and swindling them. These are the facts:

1. The two-headed traitors gave the food rations to their soldiers who are launching attacks to kill the people;

2. They line their pockets with the money earned from selling these food rations.

The people say this is just like other matters. The two-headed traitors have cheated the long-nosed of quite an amount of money. The people say it is amazing these long-nosed are so stupid.

KR Reported Preparing for Attack on Pailin

BK3101140895 Phnom Penh PHNOM PENH POST in English 27 Jan-9 Feb 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Khmer Rouge [KR], fearing a government attack, has evacuated its entire civilian population from Pailin.

However—in what is apparently the first serious clash of dry-season fighting—the guerrillas' strategy of "rural terrorism" has pinned down the army in Battambang city and caused tens of thousands of civilians to flee surrounding villages.

Military analysts say that the Khmer Rouge have spent months in planning, storing caches of munitions in forward areas and beefing up defensive positions to thwart any possible Royal army advance on Pailin.

Um Phen, the senior KR cadre in Phum Dong, 80 kms north of Pailin, told the POST that 4,000 Pailin civilians had arrived in his village and that only soldiers and policemen remained in the rebels' nominal capital. Defense Minister Tie Banh said he had heard of such an evacuation, though he could not comment further.

Thousands of houses and buildings in local communes—including clinics supported by Western NGOs [nongovernmental organizations]—have been razed by marauding KR.

Sources say more than 40,000 civilians are now displaced and living under blue tarpaulins near Battambang. The POST witnessed families saving what they could from the ruins of their houses, and women sifting charcoal and ashes from piles of rice.

Rockets were fired into Battambang on Jan 15 after rebels got to within five kms of the city, but they caused no damage.

Government sources said the rebels were able to come so close to Battambang only after claiming they wanted to defect.

The government's defection program—highly touted and seemingly successful in all other Cambodian provinces—appears to have failed around Battambang.

Military analysts claim that the rebels around Battambang are "hardliners", too disciplined, too close to their Pailin command and very aware of the need to protect the money-making timber and gem fields to defect.

The POST has also been told that the number of Thai milling and mining companies working the areas around Pailin has more than doubled to 16.

In another incident, five bombs containing TNT, laid at the roundabout next to Battambang's military hospital just one day before King Sihanouk's arrival on December 22 exploded and wounded one policeman.

The King, speaking on Jan 23 in Battambang, begged the Khmer Rouge to lay down their arms and "rejoin society."

The King—whose "quiet" work since arriving back in Cambodia has nevertheless been causing reverberations within the political offices of power in Phnom Penh—invited the KR to form a political party for the '98 elections and set up their own newspaper.

Though it is apparent that the Khmer Rouge fear a government offensive against Pailin, the RCAF [Royal Cambodian Armed Forces] has maintained that it intends only to secure the countryside to provide stability for rural development, hoping to encourage defections. However, there appears little semblance of rural stability near Battambang.

The POST has been told by reliable sources the KR are targeting village militia, officials and defectors in their raids.

Villagers Flee Ratanamondol After KR Attacks

BK3101141095 Phnom Penh PHNOM PENH POST in English 27 Jan-9 Feb 95 p 19

[Report by Ros Sochet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ratanamondol—More than 20,000 villagers in virtually all of this district have fled their homes after repeated attacks by the Khmer Rouge [KR].

Situated less than 40 km from Battambang town, Ratanamondol sits on the western border between Battambang province and Khmer Rouge-controlled Pailin.

It has been the subject of Khmer Rouge raids and shelling since December 16—long before the latest series of attacks in Battambang province—prompting a mass exodus.

"A total of 5,199 families with a figure of 26,964 people in the district have left," district chief Kem Saphin said on Jan 17.

No villagers were present when the POST visited the district town, where only soldiers and Kem Saphin's personal bodyguards were.

Saphin said some 400 Khmer Rouge fighters, along with two tanks, attacked three villages in the district—just 3 km from where RCAF [Royal Cambodian Armed Forces] troops were—on December 16. They later attacked six other villages.

The guerrillas routed the local Royal army troops, occupying nine of their positions for several hours.

After reinforcements, including two tanks, arrived for the government troops, the Khmer Rouge retreated into the jungle some 5-7 km away.

Since then, they had fired shells at the district town and surrounding villages at the rate of three to five rounds a day.

On January 3, the Khmer Rouge again launched an offensive at the town but were repelled after a seven-hour battle. Three government soldiers died and nine were wounded.

The guerrillas seized 200 sacks of rice and a mortar launcher during the fighting.

Dozens of shells were fired at the town, killing two people and injuring 18.

Local people, frightened at being killed by shells, had since decided to flee.

Villagers who abandoned their homes have been living in camps 5-8 km away.

At one camp, Phat Choeun, 46, said: "I had to abandon my home for my family's safety. The Khmer Rouge shelling came every day... I was very frightened.

Koeun Leap, a grocery seller, said she had witnessed her neighbor being struck by shrapnel in the head.

She said she had no intention of returning to her home in Sdau commune while the Khmer Rouge remained within shelling distance from it.

Kem Saphin, the district chief, said he had no great hopes of being able to urge his people to return to their homes in the near future.

He said security of the area had never been good since the Khmer Rouge recaptured Pailin after losing it to the RCAF in the middle of last year.

He believed the guerrillas wanted to occupy the Ratanamondol district to use it as a base to spearhead other attacks in Battambang province.

He believed a major RCAF offensive was needed to push the rebels back to Pailin and hold them there.

Khmer Rouge Claim Attacks in Battambang

BK3101135595 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 31 Jan 95

["Special report"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 30 January, the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea launched a major three-pronged attack on Battambang Town from the north. The first major prong was split into three small prongs that were directed against Don Teav township, Kdel village and its township, and the area between Peam Ek and Don Teav. The second major prong was also split into three small prongs that were directed against the office building and township of Peam Ek commune, the company position at the Ek Reangsei Monastery, and the company position at Chong Chhdao village. The third major prong was launched against Khpong township.

We completely occupied the three major targets after 30 minutes of fighting. We killed 12 enemy soldiers and wounded 18 others. We destroyed the ammunition and war materiel depots at Don Teav, a 12.7-mm gun, an 82-mm mortar, 20 AK assault rifles, 15 police stations and office buildings, five husking machines, many hundreds of tonnes of paddy, two generators, 25 trenches, 18 military sites, 25 vehicles, over 200 barracks and houses belonging to the cruel administrators, eight tractors, and some war materiel. We seized 10 AK's, a pistol, and some war materiel.

We are continuing to attack and advance toward Battambang town from all directions.

Government Forces Kill KR Guerillas in Clash

BK0102130995 Hong Kong AFP in English 1240 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Phnom Penh, Feb 1 (AFP)—Government troops killed 18 Khmer Rouge [KR] guerrillas in northern Cambodia while the rebels sought fresh water supplies, a provincial governor said Wednesday.

"During the fighting 18 Khmer Rouge troops were killed and up to 20 others were injured," Mean Sarin, governor of the remote Preah Vihear province, told AFP. Two government soldiers were killed and 12 wounded, he added.

The clash took place Tuesday around Preah Pralay near where the borders of Preah Vihear and Siem Reap provinces meet.

The guerrilla force was at least 50 strong, he said, adding that the guerrillas took their orders from the notorious one-legged Khmer Rouge commander Ta Mok.

"After the battle, the Khmer Rouge retreated back towards the Preah Vihear temple," the governor said.

No other confirmation of the casualty figures was available.

The governor went on to say that he hoped the government forces would be in a position during the current dry season to recapture the historic Preah Vihear temple which straddles the Thai-Cambodian border.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas seized the temple in July 1993.

The temple, set on a dramatic escarpment overlooking dense (?jungle), is accessible with great difficulty from the Cambodian side of the border but can be reached with ease from Thailand.

"I think that the army will face many difficulties and obstacles in recapturing Preah Vihear temple, but we will try to do all our best to achieve this objective," he said.

Khmer Rouge Review Nation's 'Major Crimes'

BK3101140095 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 30 Jan 95

["Communique" issued by spokesman of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation on 30 January; place not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation [PGNUNS] would like to recall the major crimes affecting the survival of the Cambodian nation, people, and race and would like to compile them into files by sections as follows to be used as a basis for research:

File 1: On the true nature of the traitorous Hun Sen-Chea Sim-Heng Samrin-Sar Kheng clique prematurely born of the tank-mounted gun barrels of the aggressor communist Vietnamese enemy:

On 25 December 1978 communist Vietnam launched more than 250,000 troops to invade independent, peaceful, neutral, and nonaligned Democratic Kampuchea. In February 1979 aggressor communist Vietnam sent a group of traitors, including Hun Sen, Chea Sim, Heng Samrin, and Sar Kheng, from Vietnam to Phnom Penh to be installed as puppet chiefs of communist Vietnam's People's Republic of Kampuchea [PRK] and State of Cambodia [SOC].

It should be recalled that previously these traitors were just common thieves roaming the Cambodian-Vietnamese border region, stealing cattle and rice from our people along the border, especially in Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, and Kompong Cham Provinces, and selling them in Vietnam.

From 1975 to 1978 communist Vietnam used these traitors as messengers to make contacts, buy fish, and carry petty foodstuffs for small-fry Vietnamese communists. In January 1979, finding out that no Cambodians would consent to become their lackeys and that all Cambodians were opposed to them, the communist Vietnamese summoned petty Cambodian border thieves such as Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, Hun Sen, and Sar Kheng and installed them as their puppets.

From 1979 to 1995 these Hun Sen-Chea Sim-Heng Samrin-Sar Kheng traitors have served the communist Vietnamese in implementing their Indochinese federation strategy and been instrumental in fascistically murdering Cambodians.

Since 1993 the man named Ranariddh has joined the Hun Sen-Chea Sim-Sar Kheng traitors in betraying the nation and murdering the people.

The Cambodian nation and people have already passed judgment on these traitors. They are waging a resolute struggle against them.

File 2: On traitors who massacred Cambodians during the communist Vietnamese war of aggression and genocide:

I. From 1979 to 1991 communits Vietnam and its PRK conducted a most brutal and savage massacre of the Cambodian nation and people. The communist Vietnamese and Cambodian traitors massacred and annihilated whole villages and families of Cambodians. No family was spared. The communist Vietnamese aggressors and their traitorous puppets cut the throats of people, or destroyed them by drafting them into the army, militia, and countless corvees. They raped their wives and daughters and robbed them of all belongings. The cities, countryside, remote hills, and plains alike witnessed all kinds of crimes and massacres perpetrated against the Cambodian people by the communist Vietnamese and their out-and-out puppets, the Cambodian traitors. In particular, at the Neak Loeung ferry in Prey Veng Province and in the Phnum Kravanh region in Leach District of Pursat Province, hundreds of thousands of Cambodians were crushed under tank tracks and killed with artillery shells and machinegun bullets of the communist Vietnamese enemy. These areas were strewn with mountains of flesh and bones.

II. The K-5 corvees: In 1985 the communist Vietnamese mobilized several divisions to launch a large-scale operation in an attempt to seal off Cambodia's western border and wipe out the resistance forces from this western region. At that time, the communist Vietnamese aggressors and their puppet lackeys conjured up the K-5 corvee scheme by rounding up people from all provinces, districts, communes, and villages; sending them to the border region in western Cambodia; and making them clear bush and build roads, barracks, and military fortifications, dig trenches and canals, set up barbed-wire fences, plant bombs, sow spikes, and rake mines, thereby causing countless numbers of deaths in the jungles from mine explosions, malaria, and starvation.

III. From 1991 to 1993 Cambodia saw the signing of the Paris agreement and the arrival of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia]. Communist Vietnam's PRK and SOC, however, continued to massacre Cambodians. They did it right under the nose of UNTAC and, sometimes even with the connivance of UNTAC itself. They shot at and suppressed large demonstrations by tens of thousands of Phnom Penh students and residents right in front of UNTAC.

IV. From 1993 to 1995 the U.S.-Australian-French alliance together with UNTAC and communist Vietnam merged the U.S. puppet Para [non-communist anti-Vietnamese resistance] forces with the communist Vietnamese puppets and formed the two-headed government to carry on communist Vietnam's war against the Cambodian nation and people, to burn their houses and rice, to starve them, to cut their throats, and to rape their wives and daughters on a massive scale. Ethnic Vietnamese were allowed to swamp the whole country while millions of Cambodians were starving. The two-headed traitors did not care, as they were concerned only with continuing communist Vietnam's war. They continued this war in order to kill more Cambodians, starve more Cambodians to death, and give communist Vietnam a free hand to pour in more ethnic Vietnamese to swallow up Cambodia. This has been a life-or-death issue for the Cambodian nation and people, continuing to the present.

File 3: This is about Vietnam grabbing Cambodian territory:

Cambodian people of all generations will never forget the history of the Vietnamese annexation of Cambodian territory under King Cheychettha II. The present-day Vietnamese annexation of Cambodian territory, that is, at the end of the 20th century, is even more serious than that of the past. If King Cheychettha II was spending 1,000 years in hell for the heinous crime he committed, the Hun Sen-Chea Sim-Heng Samrin-Sar Kheng-Ranariddh traitors must be hanged in hell again and again for a million years for the crime of allowing Vietnam to swallow Cambodian territory. The extremely criminal act of the traitors in allowing Vietnam to swallow Cambodian territory is detailed follows:

1. From 1979 to 1991 the Hun Sen-Chea Sim-Heng Samrin-Sar Kheng traitors signed many agreements with communist Vietnam, permitting it to carve off Cambodian land, waters, islands, and seas by the tens of thousands of square kilometers.

2. The traitorous clique signed an agreement to abolish the Cambodian-Vietnamese border, allowing Vietnamese to come in and out of Cambodia freely. By the end of 1994 some 4 million ethnic Vietnamese had swamped Cambodia and taken domicile here. Of these, 2 million have since been given Cambodian citizenship by the traitorous clique.

3. Four million ethnic Vietnamese constitute a most colossal danger to the very survival of the entire Cambodian nation, people, and race. These 4 million Vietnamese have been swallowing up our land, fields, lakes, ponds, rivers, various economic sectors, rice, fish, and forests and have been destroying our national mores, customs, traditions, culture, and soul. This problem of Vietnamese swallowing up our country is very serious. Losing one's country means losing one's nationhood. Without our country, we will lose everything, like Champa [ancient country annexed by Vietnam in the 15th century] and Kampuchea Kraom [Cambodian territory annexed by Vietnam in the 17th century].

File 4: This is the file on the two-headed traitors opposing national reconciliation, and preventing Cambodia from enjoying peace so that the people can have opportunities to work for their livelihood and to stave off starvation in time.

Opposing national reconciliation in an independent, peaceful, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia is a very criminal act. Cambodia is a tiny and poor country with a small population. It needs national reconciliation and national unity for it to have the strength to build the country and cope with the livelihood demands of the people. The traitors oppose national reconciliation because national reconciliation runs counter to the strategy of the communist Vietnamese enemy and the alliance—their masters—who want to swallow up Cambodia, eat the flesh, and suck the blood of the Cambodian people. The traitors opposed national reconciliation even brefore the signing of the Paris agreement. They also opposed national reconciliation during the implementation of the Paris agreement, refusing to check the presence of aggressor Vietnamese forces and to permit the quadripartite National Council to wield any power that it wished. Everything was in the hands of communist Vietnam: the alliance, UNTAC, and the communist Vietnamese puppets. After they had dissolved the Paris agreement by arbitrarily ignoring it and after organizing the fascist election, they arranged the formation of the two-headed government. The communist Vietnamese puppets, however, have remained as monopolistic and fascist as they were in the PRK and SOC of communist Vietnam. FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] has disintegrated. The monarchy and Kingdom of Cambodia are only on paper.

They have placed the king in the iron cage of communist Vietnam, just like King Savang Vatthana of Laos. They have suppressed, arrested, murdered, or removed anyone who refused to become a puppet of communist Vietnam. They have continued to oppose national reconciliation, oppose Democratic Kampuchea, and carry on communist Vietnam's war in line with the designs of communist Vietnam and the U.S.-Australian-French alliance which have given them arms, money, and military experts to continue slaughtering the Cambodian nation and people.

These four files are proof testifying to the great magnitude of the crimes committed by the traitors with Hun Sen, Chea Sim, Heng Samrin, Sar Kheng, and Rannariddh as chief proxies who are currently selling out the nation and massacring the Cambodian people and race. Cambodia has survived so far thanks to the nation and people and Democratic Kampuchea, united in a resolute struggle to save and perpetuate the country and race and determined not to repeat the examples of Champa and Kampuchea Kraom.

The masacre by the communist Vietnamese puppets during the past 16 years and in the future should never be forgotten. It should be documented to be revealed for the information of our nation and people so as to whip up the national hatred and remind the future generations that they need to unite in a resolute struggle against these puppets, the lackeys of the communist Vietnamese who are our sworn enemy, the Vietnamese enemy of crimes past, the genocidal Vietnamese enemy. We must compile such documents, spread them, and incite national hatred against the nation-selling and nation- murdering traitors who are the out-and-out lackeys of the communist Vietnamese so that our entire nation, people, and race can be saved and perpetuated.

30 January 1995
PGNUNS Spokesman

Indonesia

Aceh Separatist Receives 15-Year Sentence

BK0102105795 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 0732 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Banda Aceh, 1 Feb (ANTARA)—The Lhokseumawe District Court in North Aceh on Tuesday sentenced another GPK [Security Disturbance Movement] activist, Tengku Syamaun bin Husen (41), to 15 years in prison minus detention time.

Earlier, Prosecutor Sumitro S.H. [master of law] demanded that a panel of judges made up of Eko Martoyo S.H. as chairman and Tani Ginting S.H. and Jihad Arkamuddin S.H. as members sentence Syamaun bin Husen to life imprisonment. In its verdict, the panel of judges said the defendant was found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of trying to establish a separate state through his membership in the Free Aceh Movement. [passage omitted]

Activists Urge Release of Political Prisoners

BK3101141695 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 30 Jan 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Jakarta (JP)—Human rights campaigners called on the government on Saturday to release political detainees and prisoners and to discontinue the practice of political detention.

During a one-day seminar held by the Indonesian Society for Humanity, it was agreed that citizens should not be detained or imprisoned because of their political beliefs. Rather, participants argued, people should be allowed freedom of expression because Indonesia means to be a democratic country which highly respects humanity.

"The 1945 Constitution protects every citizen from detention or imprisonment on the basis of their political belief. People may be detained only if they express their ideas with physical violence," said Marzuki Darusman, a member of the National Commission on Human Rights.

Marzuki was insistent that the state ideology Pancasila does not permit Indonesians to be held as prisoners of conscience. The five tenets of Pancasila are belief in one God, national unity, consensus through deliberation, humanism and social justice.

Marzuki was one of the speakers at the seminar, which was entitled: "Fifty years of Indonesia's independence and the problem of political detainees and political prisoners in Indonesia" held at the headquartes of the Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation on Saturday.

Participants included government critics such as former Jakarta Governor Ali Sadikin, human rights activists H.J. Princen, Adnan Buyung Nasution, Mulyana W. Kusumah and the prominent mystic Permadi. Ex-political detainee H.M. Sanusi was also present.

Held under the watchful eyes of some 20 police officers, who constantly moved in and out of the building, the participants held a lively discussion, making many critical comments about the observance of human rights in Indonesia.

The gathering would have been dispersed by the police if Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation activist Hendardi had not succeeded in convincing the police officers present that they lacked the legal grounds to move in.

Marzuki said that in 1994, the number of political prisoners in Indonesia reached 174. However, other participants put the number at 246. In the 1970's, not long after the tragic September 30, 1965 coup attempt by the Indonesian Communist Party, the figure was as high as 1.43 million, Marzuki said.

Many people who were involved in, or known to have links with the communist party have remained in detention until the present time.

However, even being released does not mean full freedom, the ID cards of such people are marked with the initials "E.T." (ex-tapol or "ex-political detainee") and their children and immediate relatives, "cursed" as being ideologically "unclean" cannot hold positions in government.

Harkristuti Harkrisnowo, a professor at the University of Indonesia's School of Law, brought up the basic question of what exactly a "political crime" is and who has the right to judge whether or not a person could be punished because of a "political crime".

"How do you actually define a political crime?" she asked.

A study she had conducted showed, she said, that even the courts and the jails did not agree on the proper use of the term, resulting in different statistics under the term "political detainees". [passage omitted]

PPP Seeks Gradual Reform, Not 'People's Power'

BK3101014595 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 30 Jan 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jakarta (JP)—The United Development Party (PPP) has affirmed its customary stance by rejecting the revolutionary "people's power" and instead, advocating gradual change and reforms.

"The PPP will not budge from its stance that changes in all aspects of life should be made constitutionally, gradually, and continuously" Chairman Ismall Hasan Metareum said while opening a meeting of the Jakarta branch of his party yesterday.

"Change cannot be achieved via short cuts, abruptly, much less through a revolution," he said as quoted by the ANTARA news agency.

Abrupt changes through anarchy, even if they yield results, would be only temporary in nature, he said.

Those who attempt to use 'people's power' in seeking change and reforms will not only have to contend with the government and the armed forces, but also with the people who can no longer be fooled.

"The PPP is against change and reforms carried out in unconstitutional ways," he said. "The PPP also disagrees with those who suggest there is a dichotomy between the government and the people because the government is part of the people.

He said the PPP was unwilling to think of the government as a tool for "conquering, taming and steering the people" .

There are dissatisfactions, demonstrations and rebellions, which, he said, come from the nation's ills", such as corruption, collusion between business people and corrupt officials, the commercialization of authority and positions, discrimination and arbitrary measures by officials.

"These ills of the nation should be gradually eliminated," he said. "The PPP does not see any other way to advance this nation except by creating a clean and respected government. "

"Demonstrations of dissatisfaction are normal, as long they are carried out in the spirit of akhlaqul karimah (Islamic code of good conduct)," he said.

Ismail said that 1995 would become the "Year of PPP Action": of a party committed to defending the truth and justice.

The PPP will oppose any form of discrimination in any aspect of life, so that all citizens will be equal and the only thing that differentiate them from one another will be their devotion towards and actions for the benefit of the people, the nation, and country," he said.

The party cannot respect conglomerates if their wealth is gained through negative collusion, pilfering or oppressing workers.

Ismail urged PPP members "not to distance themselves from the people."

"Public demands are no longer limited to mere food and clothing—they now demand freedom to promote their interests or freedom to play a role (in society) and to create something," he said.

Ismail asked party members to defend the interests of the members of the less privileged in society, like small traders, people whose land is appropriated arbitrarily, victims of injustices, and students.

Philippines

Editorial Warns 'China Threat Is Real'

BK0102055895 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 30 Jan 95 p 4

[Editorial: "China Threat Is Real"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The vigilant owner of a fishing vessel in Batangas who complained to authorities that he had been held up by the Chinese Navy in the Kalayaan [Freedom] islands off Palawan should impress upon the government that the China threat is real and not one to be swept under the rug of diplomatic niceties.

But diplomatic niceties are all that the government is capable of, considering our dilapidated defense system and our propensity to ape United States security views that dismiss the China threat as nothing but dementia by those who are alarmed by the Chinese defense buildup over the years. The government has ordered an inquiry into the incident, particularly to find out if, indeed, the Chinese have built a naval base on a part of the Kalayaan Islands ironically named Mischief Shoal. China has insisted the Kalayaan are part of the Spratlys which it claims along with the Philippines, Vietnam and several other countries. It engaged Vietnam in a short battle over the islands in the '70s and as the latest incident shows, it is not averse to engaging us in a similar battle over the same issue in the '90s.

We should now cut the umbilical cord that ties us to the foreign and security views of Washington that generally is not alarmed at China's propensity to throw its weight around. A number of strategic analysts have concluded that the East and Southeast Asian regions, inspite of their rising prosperity, retain great potential for an outbreak of tensions due to territorial disputes and historical rivalries. They are particularly alarmed at the Chinese buildup in the south which is propitious inasmuch as military pressure on China's northern frontier has dissipated with the breakup of the Soviet Union. Obviously the Chinese have shifted their strength south.

The US has looked at the buildup as "moderate" and argued that Beijing's increasing defense spending is starting from a relatively low base. Of course, the Americans forget to mention that China has the largest standing army in the world and maintains a stockpile of nuclear arms. All the rest in the region have neither nuclear arms nor independent defense capability against such arms.

The Japanese are frustrated with the fact that their view of the potential threat posed by China does not seem to be shared by Washington or Manila. It is shared, though, by Seoul, Hanoi, Taipei, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta. It is either we are naive and insular or strategic planning is not part of our vocabulary.

The Americans downplay the threat in order to avert a regional arms race in Asia. That race will put pressure for increased US military presence in the Western Pacific, something which does not sit well with the Republican-controlled Congress that is historically insular and a Democrat-held White House that is engrossed in domestic affairs such as narrowing the deficit, generating jobs, and winning re-election. Not surprisingly, we too downplay the threat for the simple reason that we cannot catch up with the race.

But we who are in the region and are contesting territories that the Chinese claim to be theirs should know better. To be sure, we have had first-hand experience of how the Stalinist regime in Beijing could be erratic in its views and ways, consistent only in terrorizing its neighbors. It does not help that such a regime, like the fallible theocracies concocted by the Communist bible, has hardly prepared for any stable succession in case Deng Xiaoping dies. The death of Deng may find China making the Great Leap Forward into the Unknown. We who are well acquainted with China's tantrums and violent history should be prepared.

Diplomatic Ties to DPRK Under Discussion

BK0102042595 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Philippines and North Korea move closer in opening diplomatic ties despite a protest from Seoul. Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Roberto Severino said he discussed with North Korean Ambassador Yi To-sop the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations. South Korea's Foreign Ministry questioned Manila during its opening relations with the North quickly. [sentence as heard] In a statement, Seoul said the talks leading to diplomatic relations will give the wrong signal to North Korea. It said establishing relations would be premature because Pyongyang has still to comply fully with an agreement to the U.S. of its controversial nuclear program. The Philippines and Brunei are the only two countries of the ASEAN which have no diplomatic ties with North Korea.

Ramos Discusses MNLF, Spratlys, DPRK Ties

BK0102095295 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network in English 0656 GMT 1 Feb 95

[Weekly news conference by President Fidel Ramos with domestic correspondents at Malacanang Palace in Manila, moderated by Government Press Secretary Jesus Sison—live]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Sison] May?

[May] Sir, it seems that things are certainly looking up in so far as the peace talks between the Philippine Government and the MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front] are concerned. I was wondering sir, what the implications will be of the success—of the expected success, if it is going to be—of the peace talks on the extremist Abu Sayyaf rebels?

[Ramos] Well, let me point out that in the report of the two chairmen, which was aired by way of advanced information to the public yesterday, so many substantive issues as well as procedural issues had already been agreed to, and therefore we can consider the formal talks between the MNLF and the GRP [Government of the Republic of the Philippines] could be progressing very well. And I will be happy to lend my assistance at any step of the process where that assistance is needed, but I see that the two panels are doing well by themselves assisted by the OIC [Islamic Conference Organization].

Now where will this lead to? Our objective is a just and enduring peace settlement which will lead to the political stability and the socioeconomic development of the southern Philippines.

[May] And will the success of the peace talks serve to strengthen or weaken the Abu Sayyaf forces?

[Ramos] Well, I think it is also well known that the matter of achieving peace requires likewise the condemnation of terrorist groups and extremist groups that have continued to resort to the armed struggle, including outright criminality, to carry out their objectives. To his credit, Chairman Nur Misuari already on many occasions issued statements condemning various atrocities perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf.

[May] Although, sir, there are fears expressed that the hardcore MNLF rebels might join the extremist Abu Sayyaf forces if the talks would succeed.

[Ramos] Well, if you are talking about the MNLF you must remember that Chairman Nur Misuari represents all of the MNLF and I do not think that there is anybody who is more hardcore than he is, although now we say that he is taking a more moderate approach which we appreciate very much. He has also said very clearly that the Abu Sayyaf are not part of the MNLF.

[May] Thank you, sir.

[Sison] Linda?

[Linda] Sir, good afternoon. On the Mischief Shoal controversy, have we also managed to confirm the reported detention of a number of Filipinos in the area?

[Ramos] No, nothing has been confirmed because while the reconnaissance mission continues—and this is a combination of air and sea—there is no verifiable evidence of military presence or buildup or detention of our nationals. But there is one report that is being followed up which is a report of a Batangas-based fisherman, but this must be backed up by other physical data which must be borne out by reconnaissance.

[Linda] Sir, has Beijing officially denied that it has a base in the area within the Kalayaan?

[Ramos] Well that is their side of the story, but we also want to verify for our benefit and in our pursuance of our own interests what is the truth of the matter, and that process is still going on.

[Linda] Thank you, sir. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Good afternoon, Your Excellency. Sir, in view of the positive developments now obtaining in the Korean peninsula, is there... [pauses] And with the visit of the North Korean ambassador here, does this indicate a speeding up of the establishment of full diplomatic ties with Pyongyang?

[Ramos] Yes, that is a good indication of the establishment of full diplomatic relations. But as you know, in diplomacy we do this step by step. Some years ago, we in fact started with trade missions. And then later on—under the leadership of then Congressman Speaker De Venecia, now speaker—parliamentary visits were exchanged. And that kind of thing continues. We therefore would want to be part of the normalization of relations between the Philippines and the countries around us. In this particular case, we make sure that we consult with the Government of the Republic of Korea, South Korea, and other countries that are also in the forefront of peacemaking in the Korean peninsula.

[Correspondent] Sir, have you already started doing this with South Korea? The consultations, I mean.

[Ramos] There was already a consultation here in Manila that took place last week, but at the level of the officials. [passage omitted]

Agreement on Provisional Mindanao Government

BK0102050995 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Government negotiators announced that they agreed to the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] establishing a provisional government in Mindanao with Congressional approval and through ratification in a plebiscite.

The government negotiators made this announcement after the three-day peace talks with the MNLF. However, there was no clear agreement after MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari objected to the plebiscite condition. According to Misuari, the referendum is a violation of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement. Nevertheless, Alexander Aguirre, department of interior and local government undersecretary, expressed confidence that the provisional government will be set up based on what the Constitution allows.

Indonesian Ambassador Hassan Wirayuda, head of Mixed Committee RP [Republic of the Philippines]-MNLF Peace Panel reports that the panels have already agreed on eight economic issues and 24 issues on education, finance, and security.

The two panels are preparing to meet for the fourth round of formal talks in Jakarta in June.

De Villa: No Objection To MNLF Integration

BK0102050695 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Defense Secretary Renato De Villa has no objections to the proposed integration of MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front] rebels into the Armed Forces of the Philippines. De Villa said it will now contribute to a successful process and conclusion of the peace negotiations. The government peace panel and the MNLF have approved in principle the integration of the MNLF guerrillas into the military. The structure and ranking of the MNLF members have yet to be discussed by the two panels.

Thailand

KNU Head, Refugees Granted Temporary Shelter

BK0102064195 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Feb 95 p 7

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Karen National Union [KNU] president Bo Mya and other refugees from Burma will be granted temporary shelter in Thailand on humanitarian grounds, it was announced yesterday.

But National Security Council [NSC] secretary-general Charan Kunlawanit said it was still unclear whether Gen Bo My had already taken refuge on Thai soil.

"To my mind, it is possible he could come and go because there is no fence along the Thai border," said the NSC chief.

Gen Charan said everyone who escaped the war in Burma would be treated as refugees although not political refugees.

"We never push out people who escape to seek refuge. We have sympathy for our fellow humans, we want them to survive."

He said the Government's position was to see an end to fighting in Burma and hoped the combat would not escalate.

But Thai security officials believe Rangoon will continue its attacks on the remaining KNU bases, according to government spokesman Akkhraphon Sorasuchat.

He said the Cabinet was briefed yesterday on the fighting and latest developments involving the KNU by Defence Minister Wichit Sukmak and Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan. [passage omitted]

Tak Governor Kasem Nakharat said Buddhist Karens had begun leaving refugee camps in the province for Burma since last Wednesday after they were told they would be welcomed back by Rangoon.

He did not give the number of departures, but an official with the Karen Refugee Committee in Tak Province said he had asked the Buddhist Karens to think first before returning to Burma.

In Mae Hong Son Province officials expressed concern about possible outbreaks of disease among Karen refugees.

About 1,500 refugees, mostly women and children, have been taking refuge at Ban Taola in Sop Moei District since their arrival from Manerplaw.

Governor Somchet Wiriyadamrong and provincial health officials yesterday visited the refugees to observe the health conditions.

It is estimated that more than 10,000 Karen and Burmese refugees have taken refuge in border areas of Tak and Mae Hong Son provinces since the fall of Manerplaw. [passage omitted]

Minister: 'Push' Back Burmese Refugees

BK0102090295 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Feb 95 p A 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] About 10,000 Karen refugees forced into Thailand by recent Burmese army attacks "will be pushed back" into Burma "without having to wait for fighting to cease", Interior Minister Sanan Kachonprasat said yesterday.

Sanan's statement confirmed fears of private aid agencies who have expressed strong opposition to any forced repatriation of refugees before the Burmese offensive against armed ethnic groups dies down.

He said he considered the latest Burmese military operation against the Karen guerrillas an internal affair of Burma and "not a political matter", so "we (Thailand) can push the refugees out at any time".

Thailand, he added, "will assist only those who are wounded or sick, and send them back immediately when they are well enough to travel, without waiting until the fighting stops."

"My understanding is that it is a military, not a political, matter. If it was a political matter we would give them protection ... but I want to stress that we will certainly push them back, we cannot let them stay here for years," he said.

The interior minister said Thailand would arrest Karen leader Gen Bo Mya if he was found to be taking refuge in the Kingdom.

Meanwhile, Karen guerrillas are preparing for a possible major Burmese offensive against the area under the Karen National Union 4th Brigade in the southern Tenasserim division, after their outpost in the area was attacked last Saturday.

Preparations are being made in response to Burmese army movements and reinforcements in the Mergui and Tavoy districts, where KNU forces are active.

A senior KNU leader from the area, while acknowledging that the situation has been calm since the clashes last Saturday, predicted that an imminent major offensive against the KNU's 4th Brigade would take place "soon".

Saturday's attack on a KNU frontline outpost at Kawmawhaw, which is under the control of the KNU's 10th Battalion, forced about 1,200 refugees to take refuge in Thailand's Bong Ti Pass in Sai Yok district of Kanchanaburi province. The assault was conducted by about 100 Burmese troops from the 25th battalion.

Kwee Htoo Win, KNU governor of Mergui and Tavoy district, said in an interview yesterday that he believes the offensive is aimed at smashing the KNU's southern strongholds and facilitating the passage of a gas pipeline which will run through the 4th Brigade's area.

He said the Karen had never been consulted by either Thailand, or US or French oil firms—Unocal and Total—which are partners with the Burmese junta in a multi-billion-dollar project to extract natural gas from the Gulf of Martaban and transport it for sale in Thailand.

"We have tried to contact the [US and French] companies but we have heard nothing from them in response," Kwee Htoo Win said.

He did not state clearly whether the KNU would obstruct the projected gas line but said, "everything that benefits Slorc, we will destroy".

The Burmese and Karen troops who engaged in clashes last weekend are currently confronting each other on opposite banks of the Tenasserim River which runs parallel to the Thai frontier and is between 15 and 40 kms away.

A senior Thai official in Bangkok said yesterday that local Thai security officers in the region had not allowed Burmese troops entry into Thailand to attack the Karen from the rear, as Thailand will not tolerate territorial violations by either side in the conflict.

The official said after the clash, Thai border patrol police and rangers had been sent to strengthen the border area to prevent any forces from trespassing onto Thai soil.

The KNU governor predicted that between 7,000-10,000 people living close to the area of confrontation and the 4th Brigade headquarters at Minthamee could be affected if the Burmese offensive starts. Minthamee is about 20 km south of Kawmawhaw.

The whole population of 50,000 people who live along the river could pour into Thailand if the Burmese army stages an all-out offensive to wipe out the 4th Brigade's controlled area.

EU To Suspend Probe Into Pirated Products

BK0102063995 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Feb 95 p 15

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The European Union [EU] will suspend its investigation into Thai piracy of EU products, but wants the Thai side to maintain the tripartite committee as a monitoring unit.

Deputy Commerce Minister Kopsak Saphawasu said after meeting the head of the EU unit, A.J. Steward, that the EU had informed him of the suspension of the investigation.

He said the EU found that Thailand had efficiently implemented the Copyright Law and had been able to control widespread piracy in the country, particularly in the case of sound recording products.

However, the EU still wants Thailand to maintain the tripartite committee that comprises representatives of Thailand, EU governments, and the International Federation of Phonography Industries (IFPI).

The EU had complained that Thailand was guilty of pirating a large quantity of EU products, and had threatened to withdraw tariff concessions under the Generalised System of Preferences. In the end, both sides were able to come to an agreement to set up the tripartite committee to resolve the problem.

Mr Kopsak said Thailand had a good record in cracking down on piracy last year, with the result that even the USA had removed Thailand from the Priority Watch List (a list of countries that the US was reviewing because it was felt they offered insufficient protection for US intellectual property).

He said the government was able to seize more pirated products than in the past because of the country's new Copyright Law that will come into effect by the end of March. The new law includes tougher punishment clauses including six months to four years in jail against only a fine previously.

Last year the government cracked down on 1,781 cases of piracy and confiscated 1,396,321 articles of pirated products including cassette tapes, video tapes, and fake leather and garment products of well-known brands.

Press Comments on Thaksin's Resignation

Article Reviews Performance

BK0102090595 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Feb 95 p A6

[Article by THE NATION "Regional Desk": "Thaksin Leaves a Big Impression at Saranrom"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Thaksin Chinnawat's resignation from the post yesterday came as no surprise amid growing concern about the constitutionality of his position.

The minister's stay in the office was too brief for him to be disliked, but he leaves with an impressive list of accomplishments.

Within the short span of only three months, the former telecommunications tycoon managed to score enough points to stage a comeback into politics at some time in the future, through his aggressive working style.

During his brief tenure at the Foreign Ministry, Thaksin came across as more accessible and a quicker decision maker than his predecessor Prasong Sunsiri. Though Thaksin's diplomatic finesse remained somewhat lacking, his working style marked a distinct departure from his more ponderous predecessor, and appeared to win over his subordinates.

While they said it would be unfair to judge Thaksin's performance by comparing it with Prasong's, sources at the Foreign Ministry admitted to a clear distinction between the two, who were both appointees of Chamlong Simuang's Phalang Tham Party.

Foreign Ministry officials seemed unperturbed by Thaksin's lack of political credibility and his business background. Rather, they viewed Thaksin as a man for the times.

But they did not rule out the possibility that the longer he remained in the post, the greater the likelihood that he would lose credibility through appearing to serve his business interests rather than national interest. "His stay in the office was too brief for him to be disliked," said one senior official.

To his officials, he was one of the "bright stars" in the diplomatic arena distinguished by his energetic, business-like style of policy implementation and his sharp mind. All he needed was time.

When Thaksin was appointed Foreign Minister some three months ago, his future in the coalition government was uncertain and depended on the outcome of an interpretation by the Constitutional Tribunal of new amendments to the charter which were finally passed by Parliament on Jan 4.

However, he vowed to continue his work as minister and hoped increasingly to gain more credibility and recognition from his foreign ministry officials. At 45, and the youngest-ever minister at Saranrom, Thaksin had observers wondering whether he would appreciate the diplomatic niceties that go with the high-profile position.

Some officials cautioned that his business background might not be conducive to the patient, diplomatic style of negotiation often required to help solve bilateral conflicts. "Normally a businessman can dump more money into an investment to pull it from a business loss, but in bilateral and international dialogue, money cannot be used," said a Foreign Ministry official.

Comparing Thaksin to his 68-year-old predecessor Prasong, the official said Thaksin had decentralized the workload to appropriate officials while Prasong, a veteran government official and politician, preferred to position himself as the centre of decision-making.

Thaksin set up seven sub-committees, giving them the objectives of improving the ministry's performance and the country's image in the eyes of the international community. He focused his attention on a sub-panel on economic matters spearheaded by the ministry's economics department.

Recently, Thaksin gave the green light for the department to open the Business Relations Coordination Bureau as a business information centre for foreigners seeking opportunities in the Thai marketplace and Thais seeking trading space in foreign countries. He recently sold the idea to Burmese officials during his two-day official visit to that country.

He said that whoever became the Foreign Minister needed a well-structured and organized ministry, staffed by well-educated officials who know their duties well.

Another official said that as a newcomer to foreign affairs, Thaksin usually took comments by senior foreign ministry officials into consideration. Given more time, he could attain the same level of success in the diplomatic field as in his business.

Using the approach that had spurred his rise as a telecommunications tycoon before taking the ministerial portfolio, he promoted a business-like style of working in the Foreign Ministry and sought to raise its profile economically as well as diplomatically.

Some officials said that while he had proven his ability to lift the performance of the ministry, they had reservations about his brief and swift diplomatic forays to neighbouring countries, particularly where his Chinnawat Group had or planned to have business contacts.

Thaksin became only Thai foreign minister to accomplish the traditional familiarization visits to Asean and Indochinese states, plus Burma and China, within three months.

Officials cautioned he needed to be aware that trust and confidence-building measures between countries could not be cemented by one-day trips or by brief conversations with his counterparts.

During his three months in office, Thaksin reacted strongly to various comments published in newspapers without checking the accuracy of the news. His "victims" included the Saudi Arabian and Cambodian envoys to Thailand.

These outbursts at the foreign diplomats were criticized as over-reacting, in view of his position as minister. Recently, Thaksin described a statement by a Cambodian deputy minister as silly, unacceptable and contemptuous.

However, some observers said that his reactions could please the public as many feel the Foreign Ministry should react more aggressively to any groundless allegations against Thailand.

Prof Chunlachip Suwanno of the faculty of political science at Thammasat University told THE NATION that overall, Thaksin's performance was fine in the sense that he was quick to learn about his new job.

"However, in some incidents he still lacked diplomatic finesse. For example, the trip to Laos and Cambodia, where I think he should have spent more time with the politicians and officials," said Chunlachip.

The political scientist said Thailand and Cambodia have a lot of problems, and there needs to be greater dialogue between the two. "Diplomacy doesn't mean going abroad for a few hours and shaking hands. Trust and confidence building take time. Diplomacy is not like business dealmaking. His actions (trips to Cambodia and Laos) suggest that he's too business-like," added Chunlachip.

Chunlachip praised Thaksin for the way he responded to the media, but said that uncertainty over the constitutionality of his position made it very difficult for him to be effective.

Future Political Intentions Viewed

BK0102085795 Bangkok BUSINESS DAY in English 1 Feb 95 pp 1, 3

["Analysis" by Chatchai Yenbamrung: "Down But Not Out in Premier Race"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thaksin Chinnawat's resignation may be a setback to his political career in the short term, but he stands to gain much more from his decisive action in the future.

It is no secret now that Mr Thaksin, a self-made billionaire, has a higher goal than the foreign affairs portfolio. His action yesterday saved him from political crucifixion and has paved the way for his aim at the premiership.

The Constitutional Amendment, Article 114, bars ministers and political appointees from owning a government concession. In Mr Thaksin's case, he and his wife are the majority share holders of the Chinnawat Group, with concessions with the government on cellular phone, paging, subscription television, data communications and telephone directories.

Mr Thaksin has insisted that he would not give up his shareholding in the Chinnawat Group just to enable him to meet the legal requirement.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai has been very reserved and maintained his distance from Mr Thaksin during the course of his controversial nomination and the questioning over his eligibility to remain the Foreign Minister.

Mr Chuan's coolness toward Mr Thaksin, whom he once courted to join the Democrat Party, perhaps stemmed from the latter's being a non-elected MP, aside from the fact that Mr Chuan was not at ease with Mr Thaksin's out-spokeness and sometimes brashness on foreign matters as well as against critics. Mr Chuan was also aware of Mr Thaksin's fast-growing political power and clout because of his immense wealth and generosity that will make him a candidate for premiership not before long.

When he declared his assets upon his appointment as Foreign Minister, Mr Thaksin stunned the public by divulging he had over 60 billion baht in shareholding and about six billion baht in cash and other assets.

A source close to him at the Foreign Ministry said Mr Thaksin plans to set up his own party to contest the next general election and he will run either in his hometown of Chiang Mai or in Bangkok.

Dr Niyom Purkham, Mr Thaksin's personal adviser, neither confirmed nor denied the plan to form a new party. "There may be no need to form a new party," Dr Niyom said. "To set up a new party in a hurry is not good. Besides, more than three parties have already approached him. But he has not accepted. Dr Niyom believes his boss has a good chance of becoming premier.

"To become a prime minister, one needs full support and consent from Monarchy, Parliament, the military, the press and international community," Dr. Niyom said. "Thaksin might make a good score on all five."

Given his enormous wealth and political acumen, if he decides on a new party or to take over an existing party, he has a very good opportunity to be in the next coalition government. Of course, with greater bargaining power.

Mr Thaksin has told some people close to him that he intends to obtain the following government portfolios: foreign affairs, commerce, and industry. Mr Thaksin has enjoyed the foreign affairs portfolio even though he has been in the job for just three months.

During that short stint, he has attended the Apec meeting in Indonesia and made trips to Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar and Cambodia as a statesman to meet top leaders of those nations. These contacts are valuable to establish himself with those leaders.

He is unlikely to rejoin the Phalang Tham party—the party that nominated him to be Foreign Minister last October—unless as the party leader.

The party, whose bastion has always been Bangkok, has been weakened lately by internal bickering and conflicts.

Mr Thaksin's new party may include the Thoet Thai group in the Chat Thai Party, mostly northern MPs. The group has 17 MPs under the leadership of Narong Wongwan, who would probably join Mr Thaksin's party due to their personal ties and Mr Thaksin's strong financial base to support the candidates in the next election.

Mr Thaksin can recruit MPs who will look to his financial support from factions in other parties such as Chat Thai, Chat Phatthana, Phalang Tham and New Aspiration Party, along with any other MPs who need Mr Thaksin's financial support to get elected in the next general election.

A senior Foreign Ministry official close to Mr Thaksin was quoted as saying that Mr Thaksin wants to be the leader of a new party. He had reportedly approached Nakhon Ratchasima MP and Science Minister Suwat Liptaphanlop to join his new party, but Mr Suwat has not accepted the invitation, preferring instead to remain with Chat Phatthana.

If Mr Thaksin runs in Chiang Mai he may face opposition from Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemin, who has agreed with the Democrat Party to run in his home town of Chiang Mai and become the Democrats' campaign manager in the North.

Tak MP Thoetphong Chaiyanan, Minister of the PM's Office, who has been campaign manager for the Democrats in the North for many years, is thinking of not running in the next election. This would make Mr Tharin the likely leader of the Democrats in the North.

Another option for Thaksin is to run in Bangkok. But he will face tough opposition from the Democrat and Phalang Tham parties, if he decides to run under his own banner.

For just three months as foreign minister, Mr Thaksin has formed a good working relationship with his deputy, Surin Phitsuwan, and ministry officials because of his generosity and effective management style which the ministry is not used to.

Mr Surin has said he was very happy working with Mr Thaksin, and the sentiment was shared by many ministry officials.

The Foreign Ministry had their first taste of Mr Thaksin's work ethics and style immediately prior to his arrival when he sent an advance team of Chinnawat employees to completely renovate his office quarters at his own expense. He also modernized communication links between the ministry and its embassies around the world.

Editorial Praises Decision

BK0102083395 Bangkok BUSINESS DAY in English 1 Feb 95 p 4

[Editorial: "A Courageous Decision Is Made"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Thaksin Chinnawat has resigned, and in so doing he has shown the courage to quell growing criticisms that could destabilize Thailand's conduct of foreign affairs.

When Mr Thaksin took office last October, there was a general feeling that a highly capable individual was put in charge of shaping and steering the course of Thailand's foreign policy. In characteristic fashion, Mr Thaksin wasted no time in living up to his reputation as a man of achievement and action.

Despite his lack of experience in foreign policy, Mr Thaksin took immediate steps to improve the efficiency and operations at the Foreign Ministry. He modernized the communication network by introducing state-of-the-art technology. His penchant for making quick decisions and taking effective actions have earned him the respect of the personnel of a ministry with established traditions.

When the issue over Constitutional Amendment Article 114 gave rise to rampant speculation, rumors and conjecture over his tenure as Foreign Minister, Mr Thaksin stated in no uncertain terms that he will make his own tough decisions, and that is exactly what he did yesterday.

The decision to resign saved the nation from the perception by the international community that Thailand's foreign policy was being destabilized. The world wants to hear a clear message, and Mr Thaksin delivered it as only he can, by taking resolute action.

Mr Thaksin has made another decision which is in many ways even more significant than the decision to resign.

A man of his stature and achievements could easily have opted to return to his high responsibilities as a businessman, but instead he chose to continue to serve the country in some other capacity. Given his track record, the people of Thailand can expect to see him actively involved in shaping the course of Thailand's future for many years to come.

This is not the end but only the beginning of Mr Thaksin's political career.

Chuan Rejects Navy Request To Buy Submarines

BK0102090195 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Feb 95 p A 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai has turned down the Navy's request for a [baht] Bt15 billion budget to purchase two submarines and returned the proposal to the Defence Ministry, the deputy defence minister said.

Vice Adm Rot Wiphatphumiprathet said the Navy's proposal to purchase two submarines was dismissed from the Cabinet meeting agenda yesterday, and he has learned that the premier assigned Cabinet Secretary-General Witsanu Khrua-ngam to send a letter about the proposal to the Defence Ministry.

Rot said he has not yet received the letter, and may seek Cabinet approval for the purchase again in the next Cabinet meeting.

He also reiterated that sophisticated warfare equipment is necessary for the country to protect its national resources.

Last week, the prime minister and the Finance Ministry responded to the Navy's proposal by saying that the government has to give priority to national education and rural development projects when allocating budgets.

An informed source in the Finance Ministry said the Cabinet felt uncomfortable about the pricey submarine plan because other branches of the military also wanted to buy weapons—the Army wants to acquire more tanks and the Air Force wants a squadron of F-16 fighters.

MP Withaya Kaeopharadai (Phalang Tham-Nakhon Si Thammarat), spokesman of the Phalang Tham Party, said that he agreed with the Navy's plan to purchase submarines as he represents a southern coastal province.

In his opinion, the Malaysian Navy presently possesses very sophisticated naval weapons and equipment—therefore the Thai Navy should be developed otherwise Thailand may lose its power in bilateral negotiations with Malaysia.

Government spokesman Akkharaphon Sorasuchat said after yesterday's Cabinet meeting that the Cabinet has approved the construction of a warship maintenance depot proposed by the Defence Ministry.

The depot will be constructed at Chut Samet Gulf in Chon Buri's Sattahip district, near the Sattahip naval base.

Akkharaphon said there would be two stages of construction. The first stage, which will cost around Bt1.5 billion, is the construction of the depot's office building, officials' accommodations, public utilities, and water treatment system.

However, the Cabinet has only approved budget for the first stage, he said, and although it agreed in principle to the second stage, the Cabinet has assigned the Defence Ministry to review its proposal.

Reaction to Foreign Reports on Prostitution

BK0102065695 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Feb 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Protests to Foreign Media Ignore the Real Problem]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand's ongoing image war with the international media continues with the latest description of Bangkok as a flesh trade centre in the Microsoft CD Rom encyclopedia.

This description has prompted another round of official protests aimed at saving Thailand's honour. If a similar case involving the Longman Dictionary is anything to go by, we can predict letters of protest, demands for retraction, threats of retaliation and strong words or measures directed at the country from which the slight originated, pointing out the foibles peculiar to that particular country. In the case of the Longman Dictionary, England was described by the then Government spokesman as a murderous colony hunter. It would not be surprising in the case of the Microsoft computerised encyclopedia if some officials responded by hitting back at the United States as a butcher of native American Indians.

Fierce nationalism makes it hard to accept that these are but empty threats in a borderless global market governed by information technology. At best, it could only bring forth a token apology, but certainly not a retraction, as in the case of the Longman Dictionary.

It can be said that the routine protests which are acted out with fervour by the Government are not really aimed at the foreign companies, but are more intended to pacify the voting public at home. By turning the issue of prostitution in Thailand into that of national honour and dignity, the authorities have cleverly used nationalistic sentiments to their own advantage.

But the simple fact remains that the huge sex trade at home is still intact. Outsiders will continue to be shocked and prostitution will continue to be seen—albeit narrowly—as a domestic moral problem. Bangkok will continue to be described as an easy sex haven in the western media in forms ranging from sensational tabloids to such officially recognised information sources as dictionaries, other printed matter, television and computer data.

How many more times will the Government have to issue protests to defend the country's honour? And for how long will the public tolerate the continued farce perpetrated by members of the Government in falling back on national dignity as a means of avoiding the real issue of the flesh trade?

Apart from the flesh trade, the Microsoft encyclopedia also described Bangkok as being threatened by AIDS, pollution, traffic paralysis and urban congestion. It attributes the problems to the lack of commitment on the Government's part in a rush towards being an industrialised country. The Kader toy factory fire was also mentioned as an indicator of the Government's lack of concern towards work safety for factory workers. It is interesting to note that the Government has only picked up on the problem of the flesh trade to use in its protest against the Microsoft encyclopedia.

The Microsoft encyclopedia controversy comes shortly after the government protest against the Japanese sex tour guide book. That book provides maps of Thailand's red light districts. Surely, no one can deny their existence. Yet the Government has issued a protest on the grounds that this kind of information and opinion contained in this book is tarnishing the image of the country.

Incidentally, the row over the Japanese sex tour guide book came at approximately the same time as the public uproar against the anti-AIDS handbook produced by the Prime Minister's [PM's] Office. Much has been said about the sexist values at home that tacitly endorse prostitution. But the vulgar messages in that handbook that treat women as mere sex objects and make light of sexual harassment—coming directly from the Prime Minister's Office—is probably most revealing in demonstrating just why the flesh trade remains such a thorny problem that refuses to go away.

Distribution of these offensive handbooks was finally halted, but without any apologies or seeming regret for the mistreatment of women implied by their production. The authorities still find the notion that sexism is socially damaging to be incomprehensible. They can only relate to the concepts of power and status. In the suspension announcement, the PM's Office apologised to the medical and teaching professions for portraying them in a disrespectful way, but not to women for portraying them as sex objects.

The deep-rooted sexism that endorses the exploitation of women and the preoccupation with face and image explains why the government's anti-prostitution policies fail to extend beyond token lip-service. With its widespread flesh trade, Thailand is fighting a losing image battle against the international media and information technology. But unless Thailand tackles its own sex industry and supporting cultural values, it is Thai women and children who will end up the real losers.

Vietnam

More Reports on Opening of U.S. Liaison Office

BK0102102395 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Vietnamese Liaison Office in Washington, DC has been officially operational on 1 February. Its function is to help the Vietnamese Government settle all political, economic, consular, and other issues in the relation between Vietnam and the United States.

The opening of a liaison office of the United States and Vietnam in their respective capitals marked an important step toward normalization of relations, generating favorable conditions for the two governments to solve the issues of mutual concern for the common benefit of the two people and for peace, stability, and development in the region.

Article Views Benefits of ASEAN Membership

BK0102012395 Hanoi VNA in English 1329 GMT 31 Jan 95

["Vietnam's Participation in ASEAN: Benefits"—VNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Feb [dateline as received]—"When it is a full member of ASEAN, Vietnam will have a more favourable position to broaden its relations with all countries including developed ones and major political-economic centres in the world", says an article in the INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS REVIEW. "On the other hand, Vietnam will have more changes to say at regional as well as international forums.

The article continues: "At the 27th Ministerial Conference of the ASEAN held in Bangkok in July 1994, the ASEAN members unanimously welcomed Vietnam to become a full member of this organization.

"The ASEAN and Vietnam's common purpose is to strive for peace, stability, cooperation and development for the prosperity of each country as well as the whole region...

..."Vietnam's consistent policy when joining the ASEAN is to promote its economic, commercial scientific and technological relations, implement its open door external policy of diversifying its international relations, in the direction of being friends with all in the world community to strive for peace, independence and development.

"The broadening of the ASEAN with the membership of Vietnam will rapidly speed up bilateral and multilateral economic and commercial cooperation. In 1993 the trade value between Vietnam and ASEAN accounted for 35 per cent of the country's total foreign trade value, meanwhile the trade value among the ASEAN countries accounted for only 20 per cent. The ASEAN countries' investment in Vietnam, represented 14 per cent of the total direct foreign investment. At present nearly 50 agreements and legal documents were signed between the Vietnamese Government and the ASEAN government. The economic and commercial ties between Vietnam and this organization as well as with each ASEAN country will be further broadened when Vietnam becomes a full member.

Together with the expansion of the market in the region and the promotion of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), the multilateral cooperation in the association as well as bilateral cooperation between Vietnam, ASEAN and third countries such as Japan, the United States, Western European countries and South Korea will be promoted.

"Vietnam could benefit by ASEAN's experience in economic development and industrialization, and integration into the world's market.

ASEAN may be a bridge linking Vietnam with the Asia-Pacific market, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the World Trade Organization (WTO)".

The article quotes Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet as saying that Vietnam wants to participate in ASEAN as a "meaningful member" and a "constructive contributor" but not as a "burden", for the organization.

"It is necessary that the two sides should understand and sympathise with each other's circumstances and conditions with a view to identifying effective steps for integration", the article concludes.

Lao Party Delegation Arrives in Hanoi

BK2801104895 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Accepting the invitation of our party External Committee, a delegation of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] led by Comrade Somsavat Lengsavat, member of the LPRP Central Committee, foreign affairs minister, and acting chief of the LPRP External Committee, arrived in Hanoi on 25 January for a working visit to Vietnam. In the afternoon of the same day, our party External Committee led by Comrade Hong Ha, secretary of the party Central Committee and chief of the External Committee, held talks with Comrade Somsavat Lengsavat.

Do Muoi Receives Delegation

BK2901083495 Hanoi VNA in English 1520 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 28—General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Central Committee Do Muoi received here today a delegation of the External Relations Commission of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP).

The Lao delegation, led by Mr Somsavat Lengsavat, member of the LPRP Central Committee, minister for foreign affairs and acting head of the LPRP External Relations Commission, is now on a working visit to Vietnam.

During the reception, Mr Somsavat Lengsavat informed the Vietnamese party leader of fine results of his visit, and expressed his belief that this visit would contribute to promoting the fraternal friendshp, special solidarity and overall cooperation between the two parties, states and peoples.

For his part, Mr Muoi welcomed the exchange of experiences between the External Relations Commissions, which, he said, would promote the special solidarity and overall cooperation between the agencies.

While here, the Lao delegation held talks with a delegation of the CPV Central Committee's External Relations Commission led by Mr Hong Ha, secretary of the party Central Committee, and head of the commission. The two sides signed a cooperation agreement for 1995.

On Jan. 18. Mr Nguyen Manh Cam, member of the CPV Central Committee and foreign minister, received Mr Somsavat Lengsavat and his party.

The Lao delegation toured a number of economic establishments and cultural relics in Hanoi, Haiphong and Quang Ninh Province. They will leave here tomorrow.

Greetings Exchanged With DPRK To Mark Ties

BK0102012195 Hanoi VNA in English 1258 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 30—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Premier of the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Kang Song-san today exchanged messages of greetings occasioned by the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Vietnam and the DPRK.

On this occasion, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and his Korean counterpart Kim Yong-nam also sent their message of greetings to each other.

Agreement With Malaysia To Repatriate Refugees

BK3101140695 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Malaysia, Vietnam, and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have signed an agreement to repatriate up to 5,000 remaining Vietnamese boat people from Malaysia.

According to a UN official, Mr. Amat Khamel, the agreement was signed between Vietnamese Ambassador to Malaysia Ngo Tat To and the UNHCR representative, (Erich Captel). Mr. Khamel said the Malaysian authority and the UNHCR officials want to see Vietnamese boat people to voluntarily return to Vietnam before Malaysia closes the Sungai Besi Camp on 31 August.

Vietnamese returnees should know that Vietnam today is not the same place which they left before.

Le Duc Anh Speech Marks New Year

BK3101134295 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 30 Jan 95

[Speech by Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh commemorating Lunar New Year; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear compatriots, comrades, and soldiers;

On our traditional new year holiday, on behalf of the party and state, I would like to convey my best and warmest greetings and wishes to all compatriots, comrades, and soldiers in all national regions and our overseas Vietnamese. I would like to send my friendly greetings to international friends celebrating the Lunar New Year in Vietnam. I also would like to send my friendly greetings and best wishes to everyone in the world for a new year of peace, cooperation, development, and prosperity.

Looking back over the last year, our people feel happy and proud of our efforts to overcome natural disasters and challenges to lead the national renovation to more important achievements. The political situation has been stable. Our economy has developed at a relatively high rate. Cultural and education services have been better. Living conditions have improved. National defense and security have been strengthened. Our external activities and economic cooperation with foreign countries have been broadened, thus creating conditions for the following developing steps.

In celebrating the new year, our people will solemnly mark the 65th anniversary of the glorious Communist Party of Vietnam and other national holidays. Thanks to the party, Uncle Ho, and our heroic people, our Vietnamese people can now enjoy their lives. On this day, we remember our beloved Uncle Ho, steadfast communist soldiers, heroes and fallen combatants, and outstanding sons of the nation who sacrificed their lives for national independence and socialism and for the freedom and happiness of the people.

The party, state, army, and people are determined to unite as one and heighten the spirit of national independence, sovereignty, and creativity to accelerate the renovation undertaking, perfect the state apparatus, conduct administrative reform, develop democratic rights, strengthen national order and regulations, and accomplish all targets and duties outlined by the National Assembly in the 1995 state plan.

Under party leadership, we will grasp new opportunities, exploit our advantages, push back dangers, exercise diligence, practice frugality, instill honesty, and uphold righteousness to win greater victories in our undertaking to improve people's our and national industrialization and modernization for the goals of a prosperous population, powerful country, and an equitable and civilized society.

I wish all compatriots, comrades, soldiers, and families a new year of good health, happiness, and more achievements.

Australia

Officials Discuss Subsidies, DPRK With Talbott

BK0102084995 Hong Kong AFP in English 0836 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Canberra, Feb 1 (AFP)—Australia urged the United States Wednesday to drop plans to extend export subsidies for US dairy farmers bidding to enter Australian-dominated markets in Asia.

Trade Minister Bob McMullan told parliament he met with visiting US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and pressed home Australia's concerns about the decision announced in Washington last week.

"I sought to register, and I believe I did firmly register, the extent of potential damage to Australian dairy farmers and the fact that the US actions are not even in the interests of US taxpayers or the efficient US dairy farmers," McMullan told parliament after the meeting.

He said Australia would prefer the United States not to subsidise its exports and he presented Talbott with evidence that the United States was in any case subsidising dairy exports beyond what was necessary to make sales.

"With the nature of the dairy market and the growing demand for dairy products in Asia, it is economic nonsense for the United States to be acting in the way it is," McMullan said.

"It is also trade irresponsibility."

McMullan said Talbott had agreed to convey his points to Washington.

Talbott had also assured him that the United States would uphold the spirit and substance of the Uruguay Round of free trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), now the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

"I sought during the meeting to drive home and reinforce our concerns so that they are heard in Washington," McMullan said.

"We are very concerned about the impact of this on Australian dairy farmers, on Australian exports and on the Australian economy."

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans also met Talbott Wednesday and agreed in principle to help in the dismantling of North Korea's nuclear facilities. Evans told Talbott that the Australian government was willing to be involved in the Korean Energy Development Organisation (KEDO), the US-organised consortium that will implement the main element of the US-North Korean nuclear agreement of last October.

A spokeswoman for Evans later stressed that the agreement was in principle and any detailed proposal for Australian involvement would still need cabinet approval.

Under the Geneva framework agreement, North Korea will scrap its controversial nuclear programme, which includes a graphite-moderated reactor and a nuclear reprocessing site at Yongbyon, 100 kilometres (63 miles) north of Pyongyang.

In exchange, KEDO will build two safer, light-water reactors, which will cost around four billion dollars, and the United States will arrange transitional oil supplies.

"The United States and Australia are in close consultation on this... Australia has enthusiastically supported the agreed framework," Talbott said after the talks.

"We are hopeful Australia will participate in the KEDO, and of course that issue was very much on the agenda at several of the talks we had here today. The issue was discussed in some detail."

The light-water reactors provided for in the agreement are considered safer, and would make it much harder for the North's communist government to obtain nuclear weapons grade material.

Dairy Council: U.S. Subsidies To Cost Millions

BK0102024495 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Talks in Canberra and Washington will try and head off a dairy trade war between Australia and the United States. The U.S. has targetted Australia's Asian dairy markets offering heavy subsidies before new world trade rules come into effect in July.

Trade Minister Bob McMullan will discuss Australian concerns with the U.S. deputy secretary of state, Strobe Talbott, in Canberra today.

Patrick Rolley from the Australian Dairy Industry Council who has just ended talks in Washington says the dairy subsidies could cost Australia $20 million. However, he says the U.S. move could backfire.

[Begin Rolley recording] We believe that we have got far better market intelligence in that region than the U.S. has and we have got a clear understanding and agreement that we should share market intelligence so that we don't drive that market out. But then we have been given no absolute assurances that come 1 July there won't be another round of those deep subsidies into that particular area. [end recording]

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